



# Shaping Our Connections

VCU's international connections create a

# kaleidoscope

of net patterns of thought and vision,  
on campus and throughout  
the world.

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is my honor to serve as President of the Alumni Association of Virginia Commonwealth University. As our alma mater progresses through one of the most exciting periods of growth and excellence in its distinguished history, we can take enormous pride in the emergence of VCU as a major international University.



The Association plays an important role in the life of VCU by developing and sponsoring a diverse, ever-increasing range of activities and programs for the University and its alumni and friends. The Association sponsors funding for scholarship and mentoring programs, provides grants to academic departments, and supports student recruitment, the legislative process, and alumni recognition programs, to name just a few of our key initiatives.

Members of the Alumni Association receive a broad range of benefits, including international travel; special access to VCU cultural, educational and athletic events; discounts on VCU recreational facilities; networking with alumni and friends; and much more.

In the months ahead, we want to be in better touch with alumni as we implement initiatives from our strategic plan, launched in 2005. Among other projects, we intend to establish a network of regional and affiliate alumni chapters. I encourage all Association members who wish to build or join a chapter to contact the VCU alumni office at 804-828-2586, or through [vcu-alum@vcu.edu](mailto:vcu-alum@vcu.edu).

This is a terrific time to join your Alumni Association, to reconnect and grow with your University. Your loyalty adds prestige to VCU, strengthens the value of your degree, and builds school pride. Annual dues and life member fees are vital to the continued operation of the Association and will maintain our support for VCU, our alumni and friends for generations to come.

We welcome your thoughtful advice and ideas as we strive to be an active and productive alumni association. To contact the Association or to obtain information regarding benefits and membership fees, please visit our web site at [www.vcu-mcvalumni.org](http://www.vcu-mcvalumni.org) or call (804) 828-2586.

Best wishes,

**Jo Lynne DeMary '72MED**  
President, Virginia Commonwealth University Alumni Association

# 2006 Reunion: All RPI

Your RPI of decades ago is now a major university with international recognition and a growing campus and student body. We'd love for RPI alumni to come and see for yourselves what you started!

Take in VCU on Broad Street and enjoy a buffet at VCU's Fine Arts Building. Try Slop Shop Specials (or otherwise) at the new Shafer Court Dining Hall, and revisit some of your old classrooms and dorms. We'll be inducting alumni of '54, '55, and '56 into the 50-Year Golden Circle alumni Club. So come and remember your old friends and walk around the newest VCU. Watch for an invitation in the mail, or call 804-828-2586 for details.



# Shafer Court CONNECTIONS



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Cover: VCU graduate and undergraduate students and alumni from Austria, Brazil, Cote D'Ivoire, England, Greece, India, USA, France, Malawi, Pakistan, The Philippines, Spain, Thailand, and Turkey make some Shafer Court connections at the compass rose near Cabell Library. Photos on front and back covers and page 20 by Jay Paul '85BGS/H&S '93MFA/A.

**Stay Connected. At [www.VCU-MCVALumni.org](http://www.VCU-MCVALumni.org), VCUAA members can get low-cost internet service through [vcu.org](http://vcu.org).**

*Shafer Court Connections* is a magazine for alumni and friends of the Monroe Park Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. VCU is a Carnegie One Research University with an enrollment of 29,400 students on the Monroe Park and Medical College of Virginia Campuses. The magazine is published twice a year by VCU Alumni Relations.

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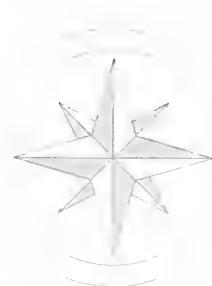
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**Remembering Coach Ed Allen**

I played baseball at VCU for four years under Ed Allen. He was a wonderful man who definitely cared about people. Coach Allen helped me personally for several years after college, and he and his wife became very dear friends.

I have been in business for 28 years and can honestly say Ed Allen's support is part of the reason for my success. He definitely gave me the desire to help kids whenever the situation arises.

Coach Allen is a perfect example of not having to achieve a tremendous win-loss record to be considered a great coach. He was truly a special person who represented VCU in a most admirable way.

**Mark Coates**

I pitched for the Rams in 1964-67. In 1964 or '65 we were playing Old Dominion at old Hochkiss Field. They were beating us badly by eight runs. It was the bottom of the sixth of a seven-inning game. We had loaded the bases with two outs. Coach Allen signaled that he wanted the squeeze play. On the bench we all looked at each other in total amazement. The squeeze play usually gives up the batter to get a run; and we already had two outs. The batter thought it was a mistake and went half-way down the third base line to confer with Coach.

The next pitch, the squeeze was on, and down the third baseline came our runner. The ball was bunted. Evidently



*We asked you,*

**What do you love about RPI/VCU?**

My memories include playing basketball for the RPI Green Devils in the '60s, and playing bridge in the Shafer Street Slop Shop (the only new building on campus).

Thanks for including RPI in your survey.

**Bob Lehman '66BS/B**

One of my fondest memories of RPI was meeting friends in the basement lounge at 901 Franklin St. In those days all the classes met in former bedrooms of the local houses. You knew everyone, and everyone knew you.

I know the place has grown... but I will never forget the good times I had there.

**Henry Boschen '50BS/E**

I was fortunate enough to study under Teresa Pollack, Chuck Renick and Maurice Bonds in the '60s at RPI. They made quite an impression in my life. I was also proud to serve on the Alumni Board as Secretary/Treasurer and on the Alumni Committee in the joining of RPI and MCV as a Cornerstone Member.

Still miss sitting on the Shafer Street wall in the springtime.

**Cabell Parker Kinton '63BFA**

**Correction**

We inadvertently left out the credit for the photo of alumnus Mark Burnside on page 19 of the Spring 2005 issue; the photographer is Mike Zinski, [www.VASphoto.com](http://www.VASphoto.com).

**Homecoming Grill and Chill—and Thrill**

Chilly it was, but 350 alumni, guests and students, didn't mind, at a tailgate cookout on campus February 11. VCU alumni from the Schools of Business and Engineering, as well as the Young Alumni Council, African American Alumni Council and VCU Alumni Association set up tents and grilled hot dogs and burgers.

After the eats, a parade streamed from the VV Lot to the Siegel Center for the homecoming game, also broadcast on ESPN2. And here's the thrill—VCU v ODU, 80-74.

# RPI SCULPTURE

To celebrate RPI as the seed and trunk of VCU, the Reunion Planning Committee is holding a design competition to commission a sculpture recognizing Richmond Professional Institute. The site is well-remembered, in front of the Shafer Street arch of Ginter House—the Ad—and incorporating the well-used stone wall where so many sat and sighed, giggled and gabbed. The three top designs will be on display online, so



you can vote on your choice. The Committee will invite all alumni to contribute to funds for the memorial.



## Super Sculptors

*U.S. News and World Report* ranks VCU's graduate sculpture program number one in the country, and VCU artists continued to capture accolades in 2005.

Sculpture alumna **Teresita Fernandez** '92MFA received a 5-year, \$500,000 MacArthur "genius" Award in September. Her work integrates architecture and optical effects of color and light to create exquisitely constructed, contemplative spaces. Ceramicist **Daisy Youngblood**, who studied at the School of the Arts in the late '60s, received a MacArthur Award in 2003. <http://www.macfound.org/programs/fel/announce.htm>

New York artist **Bonnie Collura** '94BFA was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in May. Collura teaches sculpture at the Rhode Island School of Design. Faculty member **Elizabeth King** held a Guggenheim in 2002, and Teresita Fernandez in 2003.

For the icing on sculpture's cake, **Tara Donovan** '99MFA was featured in *ART News* in December. "Wow, where do you go from here?" exclaimed Sculpture Department Chair **Amy Haft** in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

## Quality, Veteran Leadership

Dr. Jonathan Perlin '91PhD '92MD '96HS/M '97MSHA/APH was sworn in as Under Secretary for Health in the Department of Veterans

Affairs on May 5, having been assistant under secretary since April 6, 2004. As CEO of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Perlin leads the nation's largest integrated health system.

Perlin is also one of 16 experts named to a national commission to increase effective use of computerized patient records and other digital information in the health care industry. Perlin led the VHA in creating performance standards for its health care professionals and developing an effective system for VHA's computerized health records, improving patient care and satisfaction—and proving particularly valuable to patients of the New Orleans VHA in post-Katrina chaos. [See Katrina, page .]

Before joining VHA in 1999, Perlin served the VCU Health System as assistant professor of internal medicine and as medical director for quality improvement.



## Don't Go Yet!

At the request of the VCU Board of Visitors, President Eugene Trani agreed in May to extend his presidency for three years beyond his contract to June 30, 2010. VCU Rector Edward Bersoff said the Board "did not want to lose momentum on several important initiatives that reach critical stages right at the time Trani would be stepping down."

Those initiatives include major construction projects on both campuses, further development of the Virginia Biotechnology Park, and expansion of the Inova Campus of the VCU School of Medicine in Northern Virginia.

"Dr. Trani has been uniquely successful at building VCU into a major urban research institution in partnership with the Richmond community, greatly enhancing the economic vitality of the entire region," Bersoff said. Since Trani took the presidency in 1990, VCU's partnerships with other government agencies and the private sector have become a model for other institutions—and cities.

"I look forward," Trani said, "to not only leading our important initiatives, but also to an expanded external role of the presidency."



## Imagining Success

In July, VCU's national champion software design team finished among the top 13 teams in Microsoft's Imagine Cup, an international computer and software design competition in Japan. VCU's Team LiNK—James Barrett '05BS/B, John McKeon and John Sells—had taken first place in May in the U.S. Imagine Cup Invitational. They represented the U.S. in Yokohama among 200 students from 38 countries.

Team LiNK wanted more than technological flash; they wanted a project that did something useful. Their Tablet PC application, ECESIS, is designed for early-childhood classrooms to teach children to print the alphabet. It provides feedback to the kids and ways for teachers and parents to monitor their progress. Their design earned a \$9,000 cash award.

"The Imagine Cup has already opened doors in the education community, and the overwhelming positive response from the judges and participants has validated the universal need and appeal of our vision," Barrett said.

## Enrollment Strategies

VCU expects enrollment to reach 34,000 by 2012, largely from expanded Schools of Business and Engineering. VCU also expects substantial growth for graduate programs in nursing and public health.

Enrollment for the 2005-06 is 29,000 students, compared to 21,349 ten years ago. Enrollment projections depend on adequate state general fund support to allow for residential growth.

## Theresa Pollak's Legacy

VCU artists dominated the eighth annual Theresa Pollak Prizes for Excellence in the Arts, established by *Richmond Magazine* to honor the founding artist and teacher of the School of the Arts.

Art school dean **Richard Toscan** headlined this year's honorees, accepting the Pollak Lifetime Achievement Award. Also honored were **Elizabeth King**, professor of sculpture; **John Winn** '93BM '95MM, vocalist and music faculty member; poet **Elizabeth Seydel Morgan** '87MFA/H&S; sculptor **R. Nicholas Kuszyk** '02BFA, honored as an emerging artist; and **James Parrish**, a leader among Richmond filmmakers and director of development for the School of Nursing.

Hotel X, a band founded by two former VCU students, and Ebizi Muntu African Dance and Cultural Foundation, also started at VCU, received prizes for collective art.

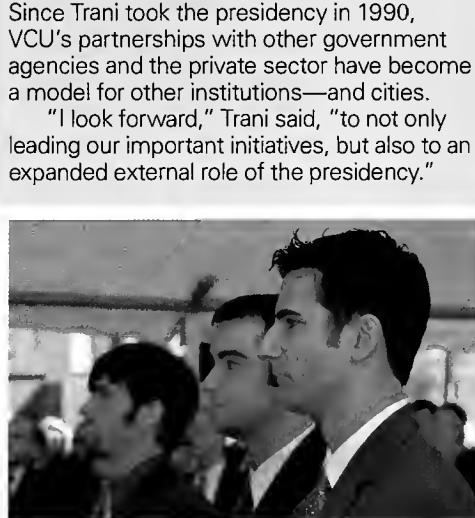
## Attention!

VCU Adcenter students collected the grand prize in the student category and a gold prize in the general advertising category at the national ATHENA Awards for creativity in newspaper advertising. The Adcenter, which *Creativity* magazine ranked number one advertising and design school in the country, has collected eight ATHENAs since 1998.

The Student Grand Prize winner used the simple image of a newspaper in a plastic bag with the line, "The Container Store. Contain anything." The Gold winner portrayed Phil's TV and Appliance as a family-owned store capable of offering personal service: "The big guys will overwhelm you. We'll just whelm you."

**Lauren Weinblatt** '05MS/MC was art director for both ATHENA winners and co-creative director on the Gold Prize ad. **Joel Gryniwski** '05MS/MC was copywriter and co-creative director for the Gold Prize ad; **Heather English** '05MS/MC was copywriter for the Grand Prize ad.

"Winning one award, let alone two, was a great surprise," Weinblatt said.





## New Provost

On April 25, 2005, VCU's interim provost Dr. Stephen Gottfredson was named VCU's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. As provost, he is the academic leader of the entire university.

While Gottfredson was dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, research funding quadrupled and new schools and programs were created, such as the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, the VCU School of World Studies, and the forensic science and homeland security and emergency preparedness programs.

"Dr. Gottfredson seizes opportunities in the most challenging circumstances, which is a real strength at a public university," said Dr. Edward Bersoff, rector of the VCU Board of Visitors.

### Roll Call

#### New Dean for School of Medicine

After a 40-year career at MCV and VCU, Dr. Heber "Dickie" Newsome Jr. '63-'70HS/M retired as dean of the School of Medicine and professor of surgery. At Commencement in May, 2005, VCU awarded him the Presidential Medallion for extraordinary achievement in learning and commitment to the University. He led the medical school as dean, as chair of general and trauma surgery, senior associate dean and chief of medical staff for MCV Hospitals.

Dr. Jerome Strauss became dean of the VCU School of Medicine on Sept. 15. Strauss had been associate chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine and founding director of U Penn's Center for Research on Reproduction and Women's Health.

#### River Watch

Dr. Leonard Smock, chair of the Biology Department, is the new director of the Inger and Walter Rice Center for Environmental Life

Sciences, VCU's environmental field station on the James River. Smock will oversee day-to-day operations and coordinate activities and programs associated with the Rice Center, a 343-acre property supporting research, education and outreach.

#### New Lesson Plan

Dr. William Bosher stepped down as dean of VCU's School of Education on July 1, 2005. Dean since 2002, Bosher expanded research and developed off-campus programs to support local school systems. Bosher remains on the School of Education faculty, with a joint appointment in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. "I look forward to continuing to serve VCU and its students while focusing on public policy," Bosher said.

Dr. Beverly Warren, associate dean for faculty affairs in the School of Education, is interim dean.



### Stirring It Up at Williams-Sonoma

On October 24, W. Howard Lester, chair of the board of directors of Williams-Sonoma, Inc., told a standing-room only crowd of mostly business students a retail saga. Since he bought the company in 1978, it has grown out of the kitchen into the rest of the house, from sales of \$4 million to \$3.5 billion-plus sales and six brands, including Pottery Barn.

Lester explained that W-S's success depended on its willingness to take creative risks, reported the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. When W-S bought Pottery Barn, they developed a distinctive brand by designing products in house. Lester admitted he thought Pottery Barn Kids was "a dumb idea" when women employees first suggested it; but it's now generating about \$700 million a year.

"The lifeblood of the retail business is new ideas," Lester emphasized. "And without them, we will become stagnant. We don't see enough really good small merchants creating really good new ideas."

### Prized Poets

Ron Smith '85MFA/H&S and Elizabeth Seydel Morgan '87MFA/H&S each received \$10,000 each as winners of the first Carole Weinstein Prize in Poetry, to be given annually to a poet in Central Virginia poet who has made significant contributions to the art. Weinstein also made Smith and Morgan curators of the award for the future.

Both poets, Weinstein said, "have given their creative energy to teaching literature, to mentoring writers, and to advocating for the art of poetry everywhere they go." Smith and Morgan have published widely, and both have new collections coming from LSU Press.

### Disarming Nature

Recent outbreaks in Asia of bird flu viruses—which have infected and killed some people—have raised the specter of a worldwide pandemic, if the virus mutates to become directly infectious human-to-human. "In this case, Nature herself is the bioterrorist," observed Dr. Jeffery Taubenberger '86MD '87PhD/M. He is the lead author of a study of the 1918 flu virus published in the October 6 issue of *Nature*.

Taubenberger and his colleagues at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C. analyzed the genetic sequence of the virus, revealing that it was probably derived from a bird virus. The team has also identified genetic mutations that may explain its deadliness. The virus killed 50 million people worldwide.

Scientists can use the information from Taubenberger's team to help identify similar bird viruses and to develop effective drugs and vaccines. A second group of researchers has already used the genetic sequence to recreate the virus and study its effects in mice. Taubenberger also holds an affiliate appointment in the VCU Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology.

### Jazz for Jimmy Black

VCU hosted a free jazz concert on Oct. 16 to celebrate the life and musical legacy of the late jazz pianist Jimmy Black. Stellar jazz combos including "Fast Eddie" Erickson, Steve Bassett and the Jimmy Black Trio jazzed up the chilly autumn night in tribute. VCU alumni in the Neighborhood Jazz Quartet composed and performed "Jazz for Jimmy Black," in his honor.



VCU threw the party in thanks for a \$1 million gift to VCU Jazz Studies from W.E. Singleton and his wife, Dale Harman Singleton, lifelong friends of Black. The party also renamed VCU's music instruction and rehearsal facility. The James W. Black Music Center is scheduled for major renovations and a 2007 reopening.

### Honoring Government Excellence

VCU's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at VCU honored Virginians who have made distinctive contributions to the practice of government and to the well-being of the Commonwealth's communities and citizens with the School's first Excellence in Virginia Government Awards in November.

Award winners are: Virginia Senate Majority Leader Walter Stosch, the Public-Private Partnership Award; the Virginia Department of Education, Public Information Award; Richard Kern, director of the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission, Innovation in Government Award; Child & Family Network Centers in Alexandria, Community Enhancement Award; Robert Grey '73BS/B, partner, Hunton & Williams and former president of the American Bar Association, the Expansion of Freedom Award; and Richard D. Brown, director of the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget, Lifetime Public Achievement Award.



## "Why Not?"

At Winter Commencement December 10, Richmond Mayor L. Douglas Wilder, a former governor of Virginia, told graduates to ignore cynics, to be passionately optimistic about what they can accomplish for themselves and their community. VCU granted 1,978 degrees to August and December grads, and 2820 at May Commencement 2005.

"There's always going to be someone who's going to tell you that you can't do this or you can't do that," said Wilder, the only African American ever elected governor in the United States. "I've been hearing that my whole life, but I've also heard that voice inside me saying, 'Why not?'"

Wilder, a distinguished professor at VCU's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, also urged graduates to be "informed about what is happening in our world."

## Impressive Double

Kendrick Warren '05BS/H&S, who produced 95 double-doubles during his storied VCU basketball career, pulled off his most impressive double December 10. He received his Bachelor of Criminal Justice degree on the same day his jersey, No. 23, was retired.

Warren left VCU in 1994 with 1,858 career points and a bevy of other VCU records—but a few credits short of a degree. So 11 years later, when he returned to Richmond to compete for the Richmond Generals of the American Basketball Association, he took the summer courses he needed to finish.

Warren remains a VCU career leader in 11 statistical categories, averaging 17.7 points and 9.9 rebounds. He played in the Continental Basketball Association for several years before heading abroad to compete in Sweden, England, France, Brazil and Finland.

## "Give Me Land, Lotsa Land..."

The VCU School of Business hosted the 15th annual Real Estate Trends Conference in October at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

Featured speakers included Raymond Torto from Torto Wheaton Research in Boston and Edward McMahon from the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C. McMahon spoke about sustainable development, noting the average family size was decreasing as the average amount of land per family increased.

"Here in the Commonwealth, we have been using land two to three times faster than population growth," he said. Nationally, "we have been using more land than at any time in the history of planet Earth."



Emancipation Day Parade, 10th and Main, Richmond, April 3, 1905. Photographer: Lycurgus S. Glover

## Voices of Freedom

Hear and see first-hand accounts of the struggle against segregation in Virginia. In "Voices of Freedom," VCU Libraries Special Collections videotaped interviews with 12 veterans of Virginia's civil rights movement. Online at <http://www.library.vcu.edu/jbc/speccoll/civilrights.html>.

## Winning World Gold

VCU Men's Basketball Coach Jeff Capel spent part of his summer as an assistant coach for the U.S. team at the World University Games in August in Izmir, Turkey. For 28 days Capel helped head coach Jay Wright form and guide the U.S. squad into a close-knit team that navigated a difficult international field to capture the title. The Americans defeated Ukraine, 85-70 for the championship and the gold medal.

"Watching our guys celebrate, and the sense of pride they displayed throughout this trip was priceless," Capel said. In his first three years at VCU, Capel led the Rams to a 60-31 record and two postseason appearances.



Dr. Suzanne Barbour, Dr. Donald Abraham, Dr. Jean Venable "Kelly" Goode, Dr. Phillip Hylemon

**School of Medicine.** Backed by consistent National Institutes of Health funding, microbiologist Hylemon and his colleagues have played a leading role in research contributing to the understanding of arteriosclerosis, cholesterol gallstone disease, cholestatic liver diseases and colon cancer.

**Dr. Suzanne Barbour, Distinguished Teaching Award, School of Medicine.** Barbour is internationally recognized for her contributions to the field of biochemical and immunological research. As a teacher, wrote VCU colleague Dr. Jan Chlebowski, her "clarity, articulation and enthusiasm...communicate the engagement in bioscience that we all share but often cannot fully express." Barbour promotes minority enrollment in graduate science through the Bridges Program.

**Dr. Jean-Venable "Kelly" Goode, Distinguished Service Award, School of Pharmacy.** Working with Ukrop's grocery pharmacists, Goode developed an array of wellness and prevention activities, such as immunizations and programs to manage diabetes or quit smoking, which are a national model of health care.

**Dr. Donald Abraham, Distinguished Scholarship Award, School of Pharmacy.** Abraham has a worldwide reputation for developing drugs that interact with hemoglobin. He and his colleagues in the Institute for Structural Biology and Drug Discovery at the Virginia Biotechnology Research Park have discovered a drugs with potential for treating sickle cell anemia, and for treating breast cancer metastasis to the brain.



## Did They Do It?

Speaking at VCU last April, forensic scientist Henry Lee, who has helped solve more than 6,000 cases, revisited some of his high-profile experience—including the 1994 murders of O.J. Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman. In graphic crime scene photos, Lee pointed out what he thinks are two different sets of footprints, which he believes indicate there were two killers. VCU offers bachelor's and master's degrees in forensic science.

## Cat-choo!

Allergic to your cat? Relief may be on the way, thanks to VCU immunologist Dr. Christopher Kepley, fellow researchers from UCLA, and laboratory mice specially bred to be allergic to cats. The new treatment links a feline protein that causes cat allergies to a human protein that stops immune-system cells from releasing histamine, the chemical that sets off allergy symptoms.

Kepley stresses that it would be at least three to five years before any treatment based on the research is available to humans.



## Cum Laude

VCU gave its annual awards to four distinguished faculty members at 2005 Convocation in September.

**Dr. Phillip Hylemon, Award of Excellence,**

## Smart Growth at VCU

VCU began building three ambitious construction projects during 2005, turning the earth for new Schools of Business and Engineering, a new critical care hospital, and a new School of Nursing.

VCU faculty, staff, alumni and friends gathered November 1 for groundbreaking and lunch to celebrate the newest step in redefining the University's physical and academic landscape. New, linked buildings expanding the Schools of Business and Engineering "will provide management education firmly grounded in technology, interdisciplinary teamwork and global perspectives," said VCU President Eugene Trani.

This \$141 million project is the beginning of the 11-acre Monroe Park Campus Addition east of Belvidere and south of Main Streets. The \$228 million plan will ultimately include student residences and a new home for VCU's Adcenter.

Two weeks later, VCU Medical Center broke ground on a new critical care hospital at the Health Sciences Campus. The 15-level, \$192 million building will house spacious treatment areas and innovative medical technologies.



Flanked by Richmond's Mayor L. Douglas Wilder (l) and School of Business Dean Michael Sesnowitz (r), President Eugene Trani celebrates groundbreaking for \$141 million new business and engineering buildings—"a transforming moment for [VCU], our Schools of Business and Engineering, and the City of Richmond."

"It is the beginning of a new era of investment at the VCU Medical Center—investment in programs, people and facilities," said John Duval, CEO of MCV Hospitals.

In fact, friends of the School of Nursing got the jump on investment in health care on June 14, when the School broke ground for a \$17 million education building. The School has almost doubled in the past 10 years, and grown tremendously in research and outreach. The modern facility will support the extended functions of a 21st-century nursing school and allow for further growth to address the critical nursing shortage in U.S. health care.

### Philip Morris-VCU: Great Partners!

In January, Philip Morris USA announced a gift of more than \$2.2 million to VCU's Schools of Business and Engineering. Each school will receive \$1 million, and the School of Engineering will also receive \$225,000 in equipment.

"We value VCU's collaborative approach to preparing a highly qualified work force and its contributions to the economic transformation of the city—a commitment shared by Philip Morris USA through our investment in the new Center for Research and Technology," said Michael Szymanczyk, Philip Morris chair and CEO.

In April 2005, Philip Morris USA announced it would build a \$300 million research and technology center in Richmond's Virginia BioTechnology Research Park near the VCU Health System. A major focus at the research center will be developing products and technologies to make smoking less harmful.

VCU is ready to become a partner in key areas of compatible research, says Dr. Francis Macrina, vice president of research. "We're in a full discovery mode," he says.

### And More Generosity

VCU and the VCU Medical Center announced two commitments from Stanley and Dorothy Pauley and the Pauley Family Foundation: \$4 million for the School of Engineering Campaign and \$5 million for the Heart Center, to be renamed the Pauley Heart Center. Stan Pauley, chair and CEO of Carpenter Company, is a trustee of the School of Engineering Board and has been treated at the Heart Center.

Mike and Elizabeth Fraizer have made a \$1.4 million commitment to build a dedicated tennis facility for VCU's Lobs and Lesson Program, which provides tennis and academic tutoring for at-risk children.

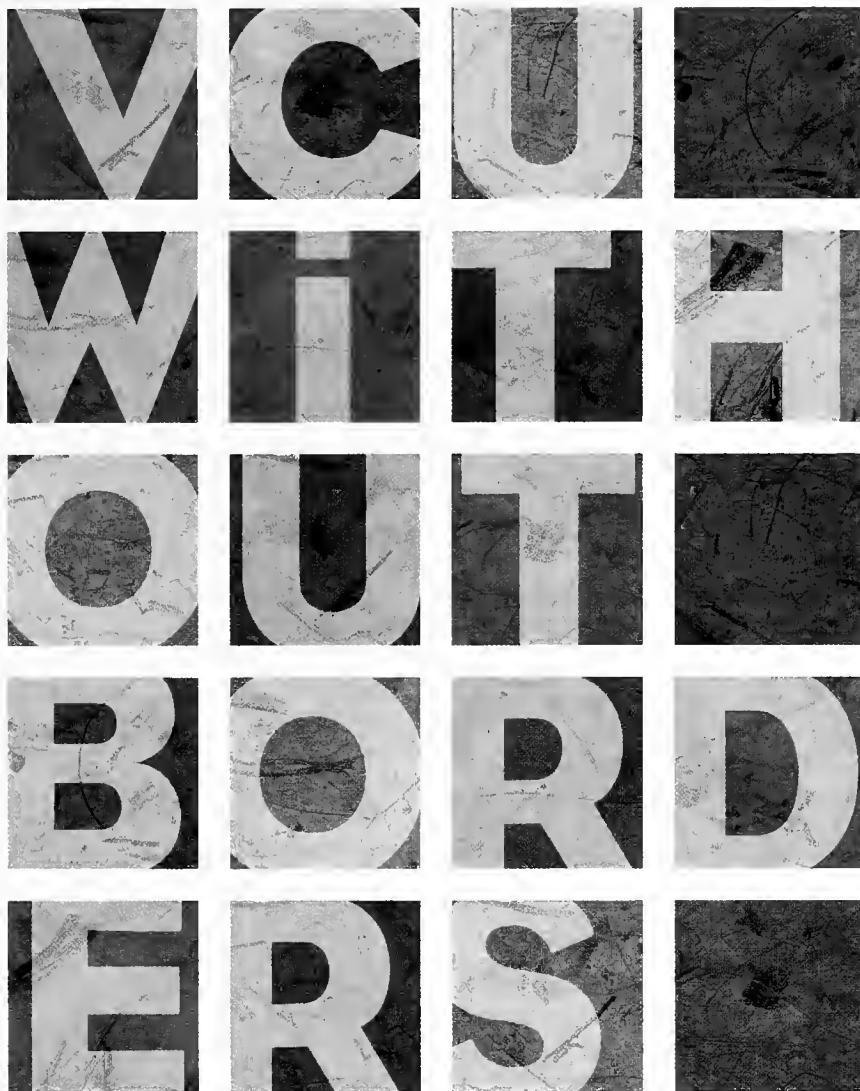


Girls (and boys), former patients of VCU Medical Center's ICU, arrived ready, able and willing to help start the digging for a new \$192 million critical care facility.

Gleefully digging into groundbreaking for the new \$17 million School of Nursing building are James Roberts, co-chair of Campaign for VCU; Associate Dean Dr. Janet Younger; Professor Emerita Dr. Judy Collins; President Trani; Dr. Sheldon Retchin, CEO of VCU Health System; Dean Dr. Nancy Langston; Paula Saxby, president of MCV Alumni Association's Nursing Division; and Carol Crosby, Chief Nursing Officer for VCU Health System.

Follow the Campaign for VCU at [www.vcu.edu/campaign](http://www.vcu.edu/campaign)

THE CAMPAIGN FOR  
**VCU**



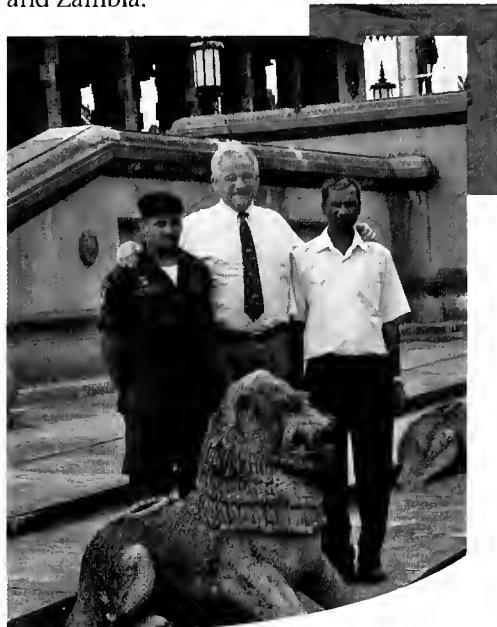
BY JORIEL C. FOLTZ

The 1990s and later have been a time of global shifts. The Soviet Union broke up, freeing many Eastern European countries from isolation but facing them with the existential dilemma of finding new ways to function effectively. There were wars of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Rwanda, health crises in Africa. To many of us watching on TV news, even if we were moved by tragedy or possibility, these events seemed remote and beyond reach. But many alumni saw and were moved—and moved. They went there; they took their talents and helped. Others realized borders were arbitrary, ignored them, and found friends and colleagues all over the world.

## MAN OF THE WORLD

Regis Chapman '01PhD/H&S is a government bureaucrat whose resume reads more like an action hero's. Since 1998 he has been working for the U.S. Treasury Department, providing technical assistance to ministers of finance in developing countries. He spent six months in Albania before being evacuated after the embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya. During a two-year stint living and working with the Ministry of Finance as a resident advisor in Georgia, Chapman witnessed hunger strikers who had sewn their mouths shut with needle and thread and saw other protests against the government's failure to provide electricity. "A couple times I got stuck out in protests after dark," he recalls. "People were burning tires in the streets."

After Georgia, two years in South Africa. During two years based in Budapest, Chapman oversaw Treasury Department missions in more than 25 countries, from Armenia and Azerbaijan to Paraguay and Zambia.



In Independence Square, Colombo, Sri Lanka, Regis Chapman stands with colleagues. His guard Sumith Kangara (l) was wounded three times fighting the Tamil Tigers. Driver Chandrasena Silva (r) lost five family members, including his wife, in the December 2004 tsunami.

"I'd say the most compelling environment I've ever been in is Liberia," he says. "When I landed at the airport, armed Marines were there to pick me up because that day the United Nations had started buying weapons, in an attempt to disarm the people fighting the civil war. The money ran out, and the soldiers got upset and started shooting again."

In the midst of sometimes chaotic experiences, Chapman's focus remains firmly on making economies work. "We give technical assistance to ministers of finance in developing countries so that they can get their financial management and their budgeting systems in order." Chapman helps "to develop their information systems, their decision-making processes, their capacity to gather and analyze information, to be responsive to national policies, and to mobilize their bureaucratic organization to create results." Basically, he says, his job is "building credibility for a government in the eyes of its own citizens."

Setting up hardware and software and teaching best practices for managing economies is not so hard. But "I'm perplexed by the level of corruption in the cultures that I tend to deal in. There's a lot of theft at the micro level on one hand. On the other hand, it's how people make a living because they really don't get salaries. In Georgia, the monthly salary at the Ministry of Finance wasn't enough to pay bus fare back and forth to work each day."

Still, he says, "I'm amazed by the dignity and the seriousness and the integrity of the people I work with just about everywhere I go. People's motivations are similar everywhere," he adds. "In the countries I work in, it's very fundamental. It's pretty much food, medical care, and trying to generate confidence in the future."

Chapman, his wife Dianne, and their two dogs now live in Sri Lanka, where he is a resident advisor.



Jessamyn Miller Priebe's murals teach Guinean children and their parents good health habits.

## THE PICTURE OF HEALTH

**Jessamyn Miller Priebe '01BIS/**  
H&S studied photography, Spanish and French as an Interdisciplinary Studies major. She caught the travel bug during an internship with the *Wall Street Journal Europe* in Brussels. "The best part about it was the newsroom," Priebe recalls vividly. "You're sitting in this tiny room with 30 journalists crammed in and they're all speaking different languages all day long."

Determined to work internationally, Priebe, like many VCU alumni, applied to the Peace Corps. In October 2002 she arrived in Guinea, Africa. For the first three months she stayed with a host family and attended classes every day, learning to be a public health worker.

"When you're in Africa, you watch every aspect of life happen right before your eyes," Priebe explains. "There's no privacy, no personal space. Everything is done outside—eating, cooking, going to the bathroom, discussions. You see so much. It's like a performance every day."

Working for the Health Ministry in the city of Labe was a crash course in community organizing. "I can't even tell you how hard it was to get somebody interested in change," she says. "We were trying to motivate people to do health promotion and not just wait for people

to come to them because they were sick. They weren't interested unless there was money involved." So Priebe followed Peace Corps advice to seek out and cultivate community leaders. "They're the ones who are going to stay behind. If you can encourage them, give them ideas and information, that's the best you can hope to do."

She used her art to educate, painting 50 murals at 10 clinics. In pictures, children are weighed on scales, pregnant women sit under trees resting from field work, children wash their hands, mothers are breastfeeding. "The doctors and nurses could use the murals to explain things to people," Priebe says. "There's not much visual art in that culture, so anything that's written or printed is just fascinating and amazing. I remember one time when I was painting a white square to put a mural on, a woman came by and she said 'it's beautiful, it's beautiful.' She was just blown away."

Today, Priebe works in the graphics print department of a large advertising company, but she and her husband Adam have big plans for the future. "I know we're going back overseas. That's our dream. We crave it."

## HEALING ART

"I learned at VCU that art doesn't have to be pretty to have a message," says W. Maxwell Lawton '91BA/A. "That was one of the first things they said to me: 'We're not here to teach you to make pretty pictures. We're here to teach you to think.'"

Lawton took these lessons to heart and created art that continues to resonate around the world. Fresh out of VCU, he enrolled as an artist in residence at the Center for Art and Religion of the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. In his second semester, he was diagnosed with end-stage AIDS and given three months to live. Miraculously, the medicines began to work—aided, Lawton is certain, by the many prayers he received—and he earned his Master's degree in theology in 1996.

"Paintings were my papers for my courses; this is the language I speak," he explains. One of them pictured Christ as an AIDS patient. A priest sent by Archbishop Desmond Tutu to research AIDS groups and ministries saw it, and the Archbishop invited Lawton to come to Cape Town and make a similar painting in St. George's Cathedral. His painting would help kick off Tutu's new AIDS ministry, "Wala Nani/Embrace."

In "Man of Sorrows: Christ with AIDS," Christ sits naked on an examination table, covered in lesions, with an oxygen tube in his nose and a crown of thorns. Biblical text from Matthew: 25 in Xhosa, Afrikaans, and English, covers the background: "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you have done for me."

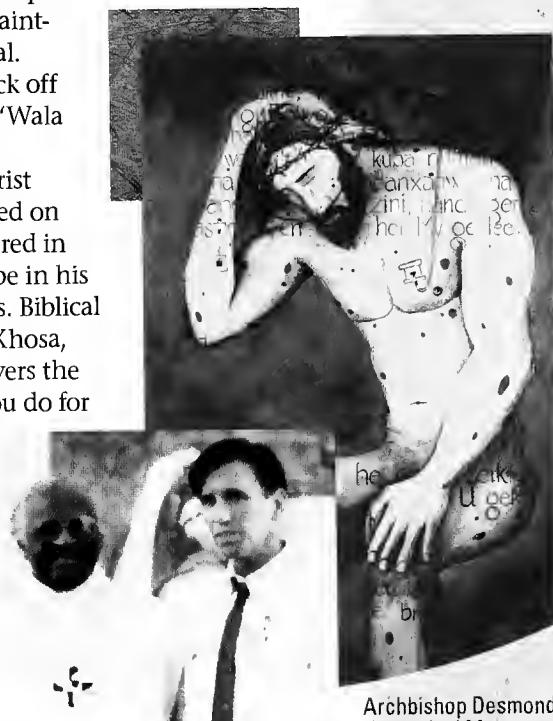
When "Man of Sorrows" appeared on the cover of the *Cape Times* in November 1994, it triggered worldwide controversy, and Lawton received death threats from fundamentalists. More than ten years later, the painting has been shown

all over the world and continues to stimulate debate, but for Lawton the image will always be personal.

The original image came to him "like a vision," at a time in his life when he was grieving over the loss of many friends. "The fundamentalists kept saying AIDS is God's judgment on people," he recalls. The painting is his answer to them. The title refers to Isaiah: 53, 3-4: "He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief....Surely he hath born our griefs and carried our sorrows; we did esteem him stricken, smitten of god, and afflicted." Lawton comments, "AIDS is not God's judgment. God is bigger than AIDS."

Lawton meets many people with AIDS who have taken comfort from the painting and others who decided to work at AIDS hospices after seeing it. "The story of this painting keeps being told over and over. There's a message there for the world and it goes beyond me. I know that."

Lawton continues to paint for AIDS and cancer clinics and for benefits. To see his work and learn more about it, Google Maxwell Lawton.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu asked Max Lawton to paint a version of his "Man of Sorrows: Christ with AIDS," in Saint George's Cathedral in Cape Town.

## PROTECTING HERITAGE

In August 2000 when Anna Fariello '87MFA went as a Fulbright senior professor to teach museum studies at the University of Panama, she discovered both dire need and lasting inspiration. Many



museums she visited faced security problems or serious dilapidation. One curator spent entire days moving objects away from the drips in a leaky roof.

Fariello taught courses on collections management and museum accreditation and administration, aimed at helping people who work in museums to understand best practices in their field and adapt those to their needs. About a third of her students were students, a third were untrained museum employees, and a third were museum directors, many of whom had little or no training either.

"They were political appointments or they had worked up through the ranks," says Fariello. "They were really sincere about wanting to do the job right, but they didn't know what their job was. Nobody had ever actually given them the big picture, how museums interface with their collections and how, in turn, museums can both preserve collections and create access to those collections for the public."

Class discussions were often passionate. Many of Fariello's students were already running museums, and the information was new and challenging. She opened a conversa-



At the University of Panama, Fulbright professor Ana Fariello's students—museum workers and directors—learn collections management by documenting Panama Canal Museum artifacts. Photos by S. Clay Rogers



tion about the differences between the principles of *patrimony* and *accession*. In Latin countries, a heritage object (say, an artifact found by a farmer) is considered public property—or patrimony—and automatically enters into a public museum's collection. In the US, where private property rights are strong, a museum takes an object into its collections via a process called accession, only after it has been given formally to the museum. In accepting the object, the museum commits to taking care of it. In Panama, resource-strapped museums did not have the option of turning down work and had to make do with resources at hand. A heated discussion went on for several days—during one break continuing at high volume in the restroom.

"It was gratifying for me, to have these people who were hungry for the knowledge. It was great that it meant so much to them that they couldn't stop talking about it." The conversation and mutual support Fariello started continues through a new professional association linking the Panamanian museum community.

Fariello is an adjunct faculty member at the Virginia Tech Department for Interdisciplinary Studies; and Governor Mark Warner recently named her to the Board of Trustees for the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, a living history museum of the culture of immigrants who crossed the Atlantic Ocean to make a life in a new world. She owns and directs Curatorial InSight, a museum planning and exhibition development firm.

## LEAPING ACROSS BOUNDARIES

As a dance student at VCU, Ray Schwartz '92BFA was inspired by meetings with Indonesian choreographers. "I knew I wanted to be closer to where they came from," he says. "I wanted to study and be around their world."

For dancer Ray Schwartz, boundaries are for bounding, and bonding—with Turkish mothers, Indonesian choreographers and musicians, and other world colleagues.

Schwartz got a FLAS grant to fund a 10-week intensive program of Indonesian language studies at Cornell, and then a World Study Award, funded by the Jackson Foundation in Richmond, to travel to study contemporary dance and politics in Indonesia. For a year, Schwartz traveled in Indonesia, India, Thailand and Malaysia, meeting dancers and learning traditional and contemporary dance forms. He traveled to India with the Sutra Dance Company, a contemporary and traditional dance company based in Malaysia. He learned from his friend and Sutra director, Ramli Ibrahim, how to translate the intricately meaningful hand gestures called mudras. "In about a month, I got to learn what might have taken years," Schwartz recalls. "It was an incredibly generous time."

On that trip Schwartz felt "the beginning of a global shift in myself. I learned that there's a lot more to the world than just what I or my little bubble of experiences had led me to believe, and that art is true and real and vital and important everywhere in the world, and it doesn't have to look like what I think it should look like."

After graduating from VCU, Schwartz dropped his plans to pursue a dance career in New York. "It became really clear to me that everywhere needs artists," he explains. He began right here in Richmond, working with the Steve's House Dance Collective, a community arts group. Later he started The Zen Monkey Project, a movement arts group in Charlottesville that celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2005. In October 2001, after participating in peace performances in New York City following September 11, Schwartz attempted another trip to Indonesia. Balked by political tensions, he sidestepped to China—"literally a wild improvisational whim," he admits. From China he went on to Thailand to study Thai massage and Buddhist meditation.

Briefly touching base in the United States, he was off again to

Turkey, where he taught western modern dance in a conservatory in Istanbul for four months. "It's a wild time in terms of how art interfaces with politics and social culture. Dance itself in an Islamic country is interesting. The desire to be more westernized creates a conflict. Modern dance has a more cosmopolitan, European perspective."

Still, dance is a cross-cultural tool. "Dance is a vanguard because we're dealing with bodies, something fundamentally human that you can get to when you're not dealing with language. The essential corporeality of being human either transcends boundaries or confronts them in fascinating ways."

He's staying put in Austin while completing an MFA in Dance at the University of Texas, but "I always have travel plans," he laughs. "I want to get a t-shirt made that says, 'Try Real Bravery. Resist Nationalism.' When you get past national boundaries and experience being *human*, that's when you're really being brave."



Raby Savage and her mom, Edith Durst, established an international development agency focused on employment, affordable housing, and children's health.

## AT HOME IN THE WORLD

Raby Maïdah Savage '74BA/H&S was born in Niger, West Africa. When her biological mother died nine days after she was born, Edith Durst, a missionary, adopted her. Thanks to her mother Edith—who had a reputation among Raby's Hausa people for speaking their

language better than they did—Savage has been at home in the world ever since.

Savage moved with Durst to the United States when she was six, but stayed in touch with her family in Niger. She began studying French at Ashland University in Ohio when she was just thirteen to communicate better with her relatives. She later graduated from VCU, and at 18 went on to graduate studies in French at Yale.

Music was another love and strength, and after a year at Yale, she began traveling as a singer and a pianist, performing and playing in competitions from Paris to Brazil. "I was able to use music as a real tool for communicating all over the world," says Savage. In her mid-twenties, she performed in the Tchaikovsky competition in two categories—voice and piano.

In fact, her favorite place in the world is Moscow, because of one special memory. "In 1984, with my black skin, with my African garb on, I'm walking down the street on my way to the music conservatory. I'm just walking along and I hear the words, '*Družba i mir*.' I figure out later that it's—'friendship and peace.' As I'm walking there, one of the few black people around, I hear it over and over again, spoken to me. I thought, what a phenomenal way to greet a newcomer."

Currently, home is Los Angeles, where Savage is as an officer of the Witmer Street Developmental Corporation, a family multicultural, interdenominational non-profit founded by a legacy from her mother. The organization focuses on three major areas. One is healthcare, especially for children internationally. Witmer Street sent a team to Indonesia in the aftermath of the tsunami. Under infectious disease specialist Dr. Moussa Idi, they vaccinated hundreds of children. The foundation also sent a rescue team to New Orleans after Katrina, where they spent two weeks in a boat taking survivors from flooded homes. Now, Witmer Street is providing

tuition and housing so that one of them can continue her nursing education in Los Angeles.

Witmer Street also does corporate staffing, including helping at-risk youth develop office skills and find jobs. The corporation works to expand affordable housing in Los Angeles—helping others to make a home in the world.

Clearly, Raby Savage herself is a key aspect of Edith Durst's legacy. "I think it's important to influence the world in a positive way," Savage says. "The way to do that is to have people trust you. Language, respect, and communication are key."



These teenagers and the rebuilt bridge behind them are the hyphen and the hope of Muslim-Catholic Mostar, site of some of the most vicious destruction during the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

## BRIDGING MOSTAR

The bloodiest battles of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina were fought in the small city of Mostar. Ancient ethnic hatreds and horrific violence divided the city in half, with Croat Catholics on one side and Muslims on the other. The ultimate cut was the destruction of the Mostar pedestrian bridge, a five-century-old symbol of unity, and Mostar was the last city to sign the Dayton Peace Accords.

Carol Negus '63BFA visited Mostar for the first time in 1995. As President of the Council for



Carol Negus (left) founded Bridging Boundaries International, which brings Muslim and Croat Catholic teens together in Mostar and Virginia to build their own peace and understanding.

America's First Freedom, she had been working for years to promote religious freedom. When Council members chose Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, chief negotiator of the Dayton Peace Accords and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, as their first national honoree, Negus was encouraged to take the Council's message of tolerance and understanding to the war torn country.

"I've always been a risk-taker," she says. In the summer of 2001 she brought together fifteen students from the two sides of Mostar, including the mayor's daughter. The second year was even more successful, and five of the students were brought back to visit Virginia and see how democracy can exist in an environment of religious and ethnic tolerance.

Negus left the Council and founded Bridging Boundaries International (BBI) in 2002. BBI brings together Croat and Muslim students in Bosnia-Herzegovina to develop mutual respect and leadership skills, as well as reaching out to American youth through a Sister Schools program in Richmond.

In 2004, Negus took a Richmond student to witness the rededication of the Mostar Bridge, restored through a \$15 million international effort. In 2005, the BBI summer program was "rebirthed" in the city, bringing together eight Muslim and eight Croatian students with a historian and facilitators to learn the history of both cultures. One Richmond student and parent will join the group for a week. For 2006, Negus hopes to double the size of the summer program and send five Richmond students to participate.

"I've always admired and followed people who are out there doing things and clearly making a difference," says Negus, and the impact of her work on a new generation is unmistakable.

Selma Boskailo, a 16-year-old Muslim Bosniak, says, "This program...helped me to discover a new way of thinking. I learned that in life there is so much complicated situations that I have to deal with, and I always have to find a way to handle them, and learn something from it. And I also learned that we all have different opinions that we

should respect." Eighteen-year-old Vedrana Kolenda, a Catholic Croat, realized "that people from the other side had the same experiences as I did and that they were hurt, too. I think I respect others more than I did before."

Two of the first five Bosnian students who came to the United States with BBI, a Croat and a Muslim, are now roommates at the University of Sarajevo. "They didn't even know each other before," Negus says.

Negus also supports young VCU students as a member of the VCU Alumni Association Board. As a veteran risk-taker, she has been delighted to watch VCU's recent development. "To have seen this school grow in the way it has gives me an enormous sense of pride, vitality, freshness and newness."

The optimism of these alumni and others brings hope and freshness to a tired world.

*Joriel Foltz writes frequently for Shafer Court Connections. She now lives in Seattle.*

# New Paradigms for foreign exchanges make VCU a WORLD PLAYER

BY JANE MITCHELL

VCU sophomore Sara Anderson wanted a fresh perspective, and felt that living in another culture would do that. She wanted a semester abroad; but like most U.S. students, she couldn't afford to lose credits in her major or delay graduation. She needed a program that met her lab requirements for forensic science. Fortunately for Anderson, VCU's global network in the 21st century offers a lot more than the old school ties. Through personal relationships of VCU faculty with colleagues in Russia, Australia, China and Peru; international programs like the Fulbright; and University Wide Agreements with schools and centers abroad, VCU is definitely well-connected.

VCU's School of the Arts has established an entire school of design and fashion in Doha, Qatar, funded by the emir's Foundation. A growing number of international students, a new School of World Studies, and burgeoning international film festivals bring the world to campus and to Richmond. Our students, scholars and artists connect with colleagues in Europe, Asia, South America and the Middle East.

"In the past, study abroad was student-driven," explains Dr. Peter Kirkpatrick, executive director of VCU's Office of International Education (OIE). A student who wanted to study in Italy, say, would meet with an advisor to find a school that shared a consortium agreement with VCU, or an international program. Later, a VCU international credential evaluator scrutinized the foreign transcript to see what credits might—or might not—transfer.

## VCUWE—A Good Fit

Anderson was just in time to benefit from a new program at the University of West England (UWE) in Bristol—VCU's first semester abroad in the sciences. UWE science students have been coming to VCU for laboratory research experiences for 20 years—some of them returning to VCU for graduate degrees. In spring 2005, "we finally closed the loop to have a true reciprocal exchange," says program coordinator, Dr. Jan Chlebowski, associate dean for graduate education in the School of Medicine.

"The program with the UWE is geared towards chemistry, biology and forensic science," Anderson explains, "and it offered classes that fulfilled requirements for my forensics degree."

Bethany Guckert also chose UWE because her VCU professors and the Forensic Science Service praised its program. "About 60 percent of my course work there was in the lab; and when you're looking to go into an applied science field nothing is more delightful than getting your hands dirty," she confides.

UWE's students come to VCU for practical experience. In 1999, undergrad Heidi Sankala came to VCU to do basic research. "I hadn't worked in an academic setting before," and Dr. Steven Grant's lab in the Division of Hematology/Oncology in Internal Medicine was a neat fit. "The leukemia lab made me decide what I wanted to do with my life."



Early (1989) international collaborators, PhD candidate **Ruth Tyler-Cross '91PhD/M** and UWE exchange student **Ashley Birkett '94PhD/M**, prepare samples for experiments for Ashley's research at VCU.

"Jan Chlebowski is proactive," comments Kirkpatrick, and when Chlebowski saw the enthusiasm of UWE students he took it further. UWE students enrolled this fall in a developing dual VCU/UWE graduate degree program.

Several UWE students had already returned. Sankala came back in 2002 to earn her Ph.D. in biochemistry. She's working under department chair Dr. Sarah Spiegel, doing cancer research on lipids and signaling.

VCU-UWE models a new strategy for developing international programs. "This is the direction we want for our international programs," says Kirkpatrick. VCU targets universities with similar programs for long term, in-depth relationships. The partnerships provide avenues for student and faculty exchanges and special projects. Both universities develop courses to meet exchange students' credit requirements.

This kind of exchange is definitely a labor-intensive proposition. Chlebowski explains, "It is relatively difficult to align our format in the sciences with any system used in other parts of the world. Grading schemes were very different, and it took a lot of give and take between faculties in both our institutions."

Jennifer Ludovici, director of Study Abroad at the OIE says, "These exchanges usually start with a faculty member like Chlebowski, who already has a working relationship with a colleague at a foreign university." The OIE helps work out further logistics, a process that can take years. In a direct University Wide Exchange, students pay tuition to their home universities, so their foreign tuition is covered by a student visiting their school.

Besides UWE, VCU has set up University Wide Exchanges in studio arts and in writing with Glasgow School of Art in Scotland and in business with FHS Kufstein Tirol in Austria. An exchange in fashion merchandising at the University of Westminster in England begins this spring.

Fudan University students try American chillin' on the James. Time travel to the roots of American democracy in Williamsburg, above.

HERION RESTREPO



## The China Trade

More comprehensive, Overarching Collaborative Agreements are being set up with Fudan University in Shanghai, China and the University of Messina in Italy. Fudan and VCU are establishing exchange and

residency programs for students and faculty in Chinese and English languages, history, and area studies. The program kicked off last summer and expanded to a semester-long exchange this spring. Plans are well underway for summer 2006.

Last summer, 27 Fudan students and their teacher came to Richmond for a month; 14 VCU students traveled in China with VCU history professor Dr. John Herman.

Fudan students had a battery of classes on campus on American history, politics, economics and culture. Most of the eager students were fluent in English, and everyone got better at it. (Films in English were a popular way to learn; one student credits her idiomatic American speech to memorizing large sections of *Legally Blonde*.)

They toured Virginia historic sites and visited Washington, DC and New York City. Several students were especially glad to visit Shirley Plantation. They had seen *Gone with the Wind* and wanted to know more about slavery and current race relations in the U.S.

On campus, they said, "Your library is fantastic! We like your tea room (the Java Café), the small rooms to conduct discussions," and research resources. "The professors, they added, "not only treat us as students, but also as friends."

Off campus, they found that the U.S. was not quite like American movies and TV. "In my original mind," said one student, "we thought that family was not so important to young people here. But I was surprised to see so many families out together for entertainment."

At Family Night, sharing a dinner in American homes, "We feel a great warmth here." One student made brownies. At another home, "the husband was a lawyer. He started asking us questions right away, about Taiwan and Tibet. We said Tibet has always been part of

HERION RESTREPO



China, so China did not invade Tibet. A very severe debate, I think. But I think we won," she concluded. "We invited them to come to China and see our democracy for themselves." Meeting and talking with an American family, said another student, "lets me think in a new way, a Western way."

In some ways they were not so different from American undergraduates. Lamenting the difficulties finding free time transportation, a student wrote, "NO CARS...I'm so depressed with no car."

the three universities and elsewhere in the world. VCU's School of the Arts in Qatar adds middle-eastern studies in Islamic Art.

"This Center is an example of what we want—reaching deep into the universities and leading to joint degree programs in many subject areas," Kirkpatrick comments enthusiastically. In October, Center partners met in Messina to prepare for a VCU School of World Studies conference in 2006.

## Educating Global Citizens

Thanks to the School of World Studies, VCU students get an international perspective even before leaving campus. In 2002, VCU concentrated faculty and departments of anthropology, languages, geography, international studies and religious studies to form a School that could offer interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate degrees. Students get the language skills, cultural and political knowledge, and practical experience to thrive in today's interdependent global environment—and the awareness to make it better.

Brown explains, "We give students exposure to some of the big global issues right now—health, social justice, immigration and identity. Once they can analyze some of these problems, then they can start thinking about possible solutions."

"Beyond our own school, we are enriching the curriculum throughout the University," he continues. "Professionals are finding that they need not only technical computer skills or medical expertise, they need the understanding that social studies, sciences and the humanities can provide. The Health in Global Perspective program is designed for pre-med students. We will teach Spanish language and cultural competency to students in the School of Nursing. We hope to have a center for cultural competency serving health, education, law enforcement and other professionals inside and outside VCU."

The International Social Justice Studies program, developed with the School of Social Work, combines

## Mediterranean Studies

VCU's School of World Studies calls itself "Your Springboard to the World," and it dives right into the Mediterranean Sea to lead the biggest international agreement yet. The Center for Integrated Mediterranean Studies, co-founded with the Universities of Messina, Italy and Cordoba, Spain, will make a sizeable splash. The final agreement was signed in October, and "we'll have an undergraduate Mediterranean Studies major up and running by next year," says World Studies director, Dr. McKenna Brown.

Located in Messina, the Center will foster student and faculty exchanges, joint workshops and courses, scientific and scholarly collaborations, and multinational grant development. Students can choose from a wide range of studies including environmental and estuary science, biomedical studies, bioethics, human health, health-care delivery, food and analytical sciences, economics, social and political studies, arts and humanities. A major goal is improving health and economic conditions, both in the home countries of

courses in language, culture and social work. Human Rights in Literature is a new course this fall. The Certificate of International Management Studies with the School of Business includes international management, foreign languages and European studies.

The School encourages international recruiting and sponsors world-focused activities like "Crossing Boundaries." Sponsored with the VCU's Honors Program and supported by a National Endowment for Humanities grant, "Crossing Boundaries" was a series of lectures, events and films in 2004. Provocative speakers Hans Blix, former chief U.N. weapons inspector and Oscar Arias, former President of Costa Rica, and 1987 Nobel Peace Laureate challenged and informed not only students, but the VCU and Richmond area community. World Studies chose Blix and Arias to receive its Global Citizen Award in 2004 and 2005.

Jaime Bennett (photo, second from right) is a social work major concentrating on International Social



Future Global Leaders meet in Dubai.

WIC/ STANSBURY

Justice Studies, with a focus on the Middle East. She lived and studied in Jordan, Yemen and Lebanon for two years before coming to VCU. She spent her 2005 Spring Break with 1,000 participants from 36 nations at a conference on "Women as Global Leaders" in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. "Rather than injecting Western notions of feminism into other cultures," she says, "we have to support women in creating an understanding of feminism from their own contexts." Bennett has also organized two Arabic Film Festivals at VCU, to break stereotypes and show the variety of Middle Eastern cultures. "There is much more than what you see in the news." VCU's Office of Multicultural Affairs, VCU Dining Services and Aramark have recognized her leadership in diversity with a scholarship.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY PIERRE COURTOIS



Young Jules Sitruk (above) and Thierry Lhermitte, "the George Clooney of France," field questions from fans.

attended last year, when for the first time Festival passes sold out. At the Cannes Film Festival, VCU organizers used to have to track down the directors, producers and actors of intriguing films; last summer the French came looking for them.

This year thirty directors, producers and actors presented their films to overflow audiences of Francophiles and film buffs, French students and teachers, and novices seeing their first French film. True cineastes make it a point of honor to see every film, installed in their seats and well provisioned, early (8 a.m.) and late, from Friday afternoon to Sunday.

Five features were North American premieres, and many films will not be released in the U.S., even on DVD or video. Films come not only from France but from other French-speaking countries.

French visitors have included stars Thierry Lhermitte and Philippe Torreton. "He is the *chou-chou*," Kirkpatrick told Daniel Neman of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. "Wine and Philippe Torreton—those are the two hot items in France." This year film students could learn from master directors Pierre-William Glenn and Bertrand Tavernier, leader of the French delegation.

Post-screening Q & A is *de rigueur*. Some questions flow confidently in impeccable French. More often, both Q & A stumble forth in a charming mélange of Frenglish, with Kirkpatrick translating as needed. At the festival, love of *le cinéma* trumps exactness of phrase.

Some questions are political. "Is there still exploitation of natural gas along the Mediterranean Coast?" someone asked Abdelkim Bahloul, Algerian director of *Le Soleil Assassine*. Or playful. "Do you like older women?" to 15-year-old Jules Sitruk, who played a boy with a fraught relationship with his mother in *Vipere au Poing*. Already a diplomat, the young actor replied, "*J'aime les femmes de tout âge*." ("I like women of any age.")

VCU's Festival also has an academic side. High school French teachers can earn continuing education credits, and World Studies now has a French and Film Studies major. Droves of student interns from VCU and France help run the festival. They practice their French or English, meet and talk with producers and directors, and polish organizational skills or perish. [www.frenchfilm.vcu.edu](http://www.frenchfilm.vcu.edu)

## Universal Pictures

Movies are, in fact, a universal language, easily leaping cultural divides. In the past two years VCU has held mini-festivals of Arab, Latin American and Chinese films—and a festival of films made by international students.

The *grand-mère* of them all is the VCU French Film Festival at the Byrd Theater, a spring tradition for VCU, for Richmond, *et pour la France*. VCU's French Film Festival is the largest in the United States, and in 2004 the French government knighted festival founders and directors, Dr. Peter Kirkpatrick and Dr. Françoise Ravaux-Kirkpatrick, for their contributions to French arts and letters. France lately came to Richmond March 31-April 2, 2006.

"We have shown that Americans really do enjoy French films," says Kirkpatrick. "Each year the festival expands." A record 17,500

## Platinum Partnership

Formal international exchanges link VCU to the world. Still, shifts in global awareness often happen almost imperceptibly, in small studios, lab groups, or one-to-one as visitors from other countries teach and learn through daily interactions on campus. VCU's faculty has myriad collaborations with colleagues, also facilitated by the OIE.

Dr. Nick Farrell, VCU professor of inorganic chemistry, met Dr. Susan Berners-Price, chair of biological chemistry at the University of Western Australia at a conference. In 1997, they began an important international collaboration. "We make anti-cancer drugs and understand the basic chemistry of them," Farrell says.

"Professor Nick Farrell is currently doing amongst the best work in the world in the field of platinum anticancer drugs. He has developed a series of novel multinuclear platinum drugs, one of which has reached Phase 2 clinical trials," says Berners-Price. Her Australian lab "uses techniques based on Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy to investigate how these compounds interact with DNA and other molecules."

The collaboration has generated several major publications in leading international journals and attracted research funding from the Australian Research Council and the National Institutes of Health. "We submit joint research proposals," says Farrell. "We ask for stipends for graduate students



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JENNIFER WATSON, VCU CREATIVE SERVICES

**Team VCU:** Qin Liu, China; Atilio Anzellotti, Venezuela; Dr. Nicholas Farrell, Ireland-US; Ralph Kipping, Germany; and Dr. Genevieve Bulluss, Australia.

troscopy to study the interaction of drugs with DNA. She observes, "The exchange is extremely important in transferring knowledge and skills and providing the students with broader experience than they would gain in their home institutions. They develop networks that are helpful to them in their future careers."

Farrell knows the value of a wide network. Born in Ireland, he lived in Brazil from 1977 to 1984, and now travels broadly. "My group has graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from China, Venezuela, Jamaica, Australia, Iran, Germany and Spain." He recently organized an international conference on research in platinum drugs, and has published a new textbook on platinum compounds in anti-cancer agents. He received one of VCU's highest faculty honors, the Distinguished Scholarship Award, in 2003.

"Attending conferences and lecturing around the world is a good way to widen the student profile," says Farrell, adding that working with students from other countries broadens his knowledge base.

Atilio Anzellotti heard Farrell lecture in Venezuela and resolved to come to VCU for a Ph.D. in chemistry. "I liked his line of research very much." The multicultural atmosphere in the lab is "interesting and rich both personally and professionally, and VCU is receptive to foreign students."

In June, Farrell took foreign workers Dr. Yun Qu, Anzellotti, Dr. Qin Liu and Dr. Gen Bulluss from his lab to Japan. They attended a combined meeting of the Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) and The National Cancer Institute (NCI) as part of a project Farrell has with Japan.

and postdoctoral fellows to go back and forth as part of our international collaboration."

Five VCU students have gone to Perth to work with Berners-Price and learn that side of the project. "The NMR techniques that we use are very specialized. In particular the interpretation of the data is very complicated and requires a great deal of experience that has been developed in my lab over a number of years," she explains.

Aussie Ph.D. candidate Joe Moniodis has visited Farrell's lab twice. "I am part of the exchange of expertise," Moniodis explains. "E-mails and calls aren't enough. Exchanges allow researchers to help each other in person."

Four of Berners-Price's students have come to VCU to become skilled in the synthesis of the platinum drugs or to learn methods other than NMR spec-



**Team UWA:** Australians Dr. Sue Berners-Price, Joe Moniodis, and Canadian Don Thomas (front to back).

art," Taguchi says. "The concept comes before the materials."

But Taguchi's transformation didn't stop there. VCU's visiting artist programs were a revelation. "In this academic environment, we can meet interesting artists from everywhere in the States and sometimes from Europe and hear them live." Daily interactions with VCU's talented students and professors "keeps my work fresh."

German installation artist Katharina Grosse has shown her work in Australia, Korea, and Los Angeles. Using spray guns, air compressors and paint, Grosse creates monumental site-specific paintings directly on gallery walls, ceiling, and floor. Intense colors form lyrical stretches of drifting and colliding expressionist clouds, both dematerializing and restructuring architectural space.

When VCU brought her to campus for a week last April, Grosse created an installation at VCU's gallery Solvent Space south of the James River. The old industrial building was "the roughest space I have been in so far in terms of its former use being so present . . . and it took a lot of energy to transform." Grosse found that students and faculty at VCU "are genuinely curious about how you develop your work."

Korean Ji-Wan Joo teaches Korean Ceramics. Although "many Americans do ceramics using Japanese techniques, Korean techniques are new to them." When Joo teaches the history of ceramics, which spread from China to Korea 5000 years ago, "I introduce Korean culture. I show Korean movies and other cultural images during classes."

Her American students, Joo finds, "are more creative in their art and they freely adopt other countries' cultures into their work. They may use the Korean technique, but their expressions are unique."

## Art without Borders

Artists are used to transcending boundaries—in a sense, that's what they do, borrowing from other media, other artists, and other cultures to make something new. Even the name of VCU's Department of Sculpture and Extended Media recognizes that fact of contemporary art. A shrinking world just makes it easier.

In three months as a visiting research artist in VCU's Craft/Materials Department, Japanese glass artist Kazue Taguchi transformed her view of contemporary art. In Spain where she had studied for seven years, the material comes first. "In the VCU studio, they use glass as part of their

## Global Networks, Global Brand

"Global" has become an essential adjective for business, and the School of Business has several programs at all levels to sharpen global management and marketing skills. Last March, VCU's International Business Forum discussed the theme "Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century: Keys to Global Economic and Social Development." The Fast Track Executive MBA Program has included a global component since its beginning in 1996. (See *World Class*, page 26) The School began an undergraduate Global Scholar program this fall.

The International Business Certificate Program (IBCP) teaches business executives, managers and advanced students to maneuver at top form in the 21st century's global economy. The class meets each week at a different Richmond firm or agency doing global business, usually with the CEO or COO—from the Port of Richmond to Philip Morris. "Students get a full perspective—insurance, banking, investments, homeland security, and legal issues," says program director Dr. Van Wood, Philip Morris Chair in International Business.

"To succeed in business you need to be aware of what's around you," comments Ahmed Makhani '04MBA. "Today that means what's around the world. You learn in the IBCP, for instance, that a product may be irrelevant in one country and extremely important in another." Makhani came to VCU from India for an MBA in marketing, with a focus on technology. Meeting Tredegar Film Products CEO John Gottwald in the IBCP led to his job as business innovation manager and marketing analyst at Tredegar.

Wood aims to take VCU business education global. Supported by a Fulbright grant, he is developing an Executive MBA with Middle Eastern partners at Helwan University (HU)-Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration in Cairo. The program will train future business leaders for Egypt and the Gulf States in global business subjects, integrated across seven defining themes for contemporary business. VCU and HU faculty members made intensive visits to each other's campuses preparing for the program's launch. Executives and managers in the EMBA Program will spend time on campus at VCU and earn two degrees, one from VCU and one from HU. The partnership will expand global reputations and presence for both VCU and HU.

The Executive MBA will begin this summer in Cairo, with 25 to 30 students from Egypt and the Middle

East. Wood is contacting American companies in Egypt to sponsor promising employees. "American companies there would much rather have Egyptians in management positions than Americans," says VCU Economics professor, Dr. Dennis O'Toole. To be successful, these executives need training in American business.

The new program is module-based. "Classes will not be broken down into Accounting, Finance, and Marketing," explains Wood, "There will be integration across seven modules. In the Global Challenges module, students would examine what role disciplines such as market-

ing, human resources management, information systems, finance and others play in building global supply changes, or global brand names."

HU economics professor Dr. Ali Youssef visited VCU in June. He attended Fast Track MBA classes and talked with students and professors to decide how to translate the American program into a format that speaks to Egyptians. "Egyptian students are used to lectures without PowerPoint or simulations," says O'Toole who spoke with Youssef. Helwan professors of accounting, economics, and marketing may team teach with VCU faculty to find "best practices" in both teaching styles.

Wood travels widely and envisions future VCU branches in China, India and Eastern Europe. "Like many of my colleagues, I would like to see the VCU further internationalized and its name and logo recognized, through strategically-placed programs around the world." [www.eimbaincairo@vcu.edu](mailto:www.eimbaincairo@vcu.edu)

## Double Take

VCUarts students are also pushing the VCU brand and earning an international rep. "It's pretty amazing how VCU helps art students get a start," comments **Sarah Bednarek '05MFA** in Sculpture and Extended Media. She has exhibited twice in a London gallery thanks to VCU travel grants.

In June 2004 when VCU sculpture graduate students exhibited at the Keith Talent gallery in London, co-owners Andrew Clarkin and Simon Piptuck first took note of Bednarek's work. Then VCU invited the young East End gallery owners to speak in Richmond. Visiting graduate studios, Clarkin and Piptuck came upon Bednarek's "Ideologues"—photographic portraits of a variously bearded Bednarek impersonating a gallery of dictators. "They thought it was hilarious," she says. "They were really interested in the handmade beards—it was detailed women's work in contrast with the influence of male dictators." In fact, the Brits enjoyed the work so much they put the piece on the front and back cover of the gallery's magazine, *Miser and Now*, and invited her to show a piece in their February three-artist show, Pork Barrel.

Bednarek took "Comforting Words," another piece about the dissemination of ideas, to London. "I couldn't have done it without the travel grant from the sculpture department," she admits. "I could have mailed the disassembled work [a lectern swathed in old-lady-style sweaters]; but the gallery wouldn't have known how to put it back together."

At the Pork Barrel opening, the "bearded lady" was a sensation with art patrons. "Seeing the bearded ideologues on the magazine cover and then me at the gallery, people had to come up to talk about my work," Bednarek grins.



## VCUArts-Qatar—Global by Design

The university's most remarkable international footprint is VCU's School of the Arts in Qatar [Kagh-tar]. Funded by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development since 1998, the School offers women Bachelors of Fine Arts degrees in Communication Arts, Fashion Design, and Interior Design.

Looking ahead to the end of oil reserves, the Emir of Qatar knew his people would need training in professions. He invited foreign universities to open branches in their areas of specialty to educate students from Qatar and the region. Education City in Doha includes schools like Texas A&M, Weill Cornell Medical College, and VCU's School of the Arts.

John DeMao, VCUArts associate dean for VCUArts-Qatar, explains, "Initially, the Emir and Her Highness were interested in programs that could be made available to their native women for whom it was difficult to study abroad" because of cultural constraints. Although tailored to Arab cultural traditions, the school attracts women from many nations. Its fourth class graduated last June, and current enrollment is 181.

Fashion design is popular with Qatari students, who learn both technique and theory. Experimental designs by their Richmond counterparts have inspired VCUQ students to translate modern design concepts to traditional clothing. Even the full-length black abaya "is becoming a more decorated garment, a real fashion statement," comments Dr. Richard Toscan, dean of VCU School of the Arts.

Qatar itself is a cosmopolitan place, sharing its Connecticut-sized country with ex-patriots from the U.S., Canada and East Asia; and attitudes are shifting. In a *Richmond Times-Dispatch* story in March, Dean Richard Toscan and VCUArts-Qatar

their studies in Richmond," says Dr. Charles Bleick, VCUQ's associate dean for Academic Affairs, noting that "for many married students with children, VCUQ is the only option they will have to receive the highly specialized degree in design."

Bleick continues, "In Qatar, we work very closely with our alumnae to help prepare them for the world of work." VCUQ contracted with London-based Fitch International, a multi-national branding firm, to hire alumnae for their new Doha branch studio. "VCUQ alumnae have been involved in designing logos for Doha taxis, a set design for a BBC debate series, and preliminary work for the 2006 Asian Games," says Bleick. This year, VCUQ launched the Center for Research in Design to develop research projects and to mentor Qatar alumnae. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 44)

Incorporating traditional elements in modern ways is a design challenge. "The past and future, East and West are starting to blend," says student Nayla Al-Mulla.

Founding Director Paul Petrie noted that faculty and administrators value most the changes they see in their young women students. Students who first came to school with maids to carry their books learn not only design, but initiative. For the first time, something in their lives is urgent. They take hold of the work, and take off. Toscan notices, "Even the fathers of these students talk to me about seeing this amazing development of confidence and assertiveness in their daughters."

Putting an official stamp on this growth, the U.S. Department of State chose a VCUQ design student to participate in the Middle East Partnership Initiative Study at the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders.

Attitudes will expand even more in the next two years, DeMao says, when "we will build facilities for male students and initiate our co-ed programs."

Some Qatari students have come to the Richmond campus for classes, and the formal exchange program began this fall with a student from each campus.

"Our goal is to increase the number of students electing to continue



Young women at VCUArts-Qatar are absorbed and energized by their studies in design theory and practice—even the black abaya can become a fashion statement.

lashing a brilliant smile and jubilantly waving a Kuwaiti flag, **Loulwah Khaled Al-Jaber '05 DDS** graduated from VCU's School of Dentistry in May. Thanks to her VCU and U.S. experience, she had much more than her degree to celebrate. She had already achieved her number one goal, campaigning successfully among young Kuwaitis to provide women the right to vote for the first time in 2007.

**"I've discovered so much about myself. In some w**



**We are the**



## Fair Trade

It's a fair trade. Khaled Al-Jaber and more than half a million international students like her have a huge positive impact on U.S. universities and the U.S. economy. These

students, often the world's academic and socio-political elite, bring the world to campus; and they give American colleges a higher international profile. In Virginia alone, in 2004 more than 12,875 internationals enrolled with student visas (data from the Institute of International Education). The Open Doors Report 2003 noted an economic impact in Virginia alone at more than \$250.8 million.

ys, I think I was really born here."—Loulwa Khaled Al-Jaber '05DDS

Al-Jaber's father is a diplomat, and she had already taken a leadership role among young Kuwaitis during her seven years at VCU. An active member of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the U.S., Al-Jaber led the culture committee and was head editor of the Union's twice-monthly on-line magazine. She wrote many columns on women's issues, exploring new possibilities and lobbying for the vote for women.

At the realization of going home for good, "I'm freaking out," she said in precise American. "I wouldn't have experienced this part of myself in Kuwait. Being involved politically for the first time, learning to have courage to change things and to have independence, learning about politics in the US. I've discovered so much about myself. In some ways, I think I was really born here."

And there is the positive educational impact of meeting world neighbors here on campus. Isabella Magetse '00MED of Botswana notes, "The University, in my view, benefits as it is also enriched by experiences from other countries. Those of us from developing countries learn a lot about countries of the world in our history and geography lessons, so I was surprised that most Americans I met with did not know a thing about Botswana. Their view of Africa is wild animals and its inhabitants living in the wild. They were always surprised by my ability to speak English. I believe our study there opened the eyes of many."

"The United States is still the number one destination for education in the world. It is considered the premier post-graduate environment," explains Bob Wood, VCU international student recruiter. "Many factors apply: first, the high quality of the education here. But it is also the image of the U.S. Hollywood comes into this. The wealth of our country plays into it. These students are very eager to come."

At a time when other U.S. schools saw a drop in international enrollment because of more stringent regulations after the September 11 attacks, VCU—thanks to aggressive recruitment and enthusiastic promotion from alumni returning home—has seen more than a 70 percent increase. In spring 2006, VCU has 1,000 international students, and aims to double that.

Wood takes VCU to international students, selling its close proximity to Washington, DC, its nationally ranked programs, and its affordability to some of the brightest students the globe has to offer. "I'll leave in September and get back a month later," Wood said last summer. "I'll visit twenty different countries and cities,

new world

starting with Tai-pei, Taiwan. I'll visit public and private schools in each country and then I—along with 20 or 30 other recruiters from different universities—will attend heavily promoted educational fairs in hotel ballrooms. I'll bring in 100 pounds of VCU brochures and start talking. I've seen as many as 4,000 kids in a three-hour period," he says. "And that was in Lima, Peru!"

Reflecting national trends, VCU draws most of its international students from India, China and Korea. Although Kuwait's numbers have declined nationally because of registration and visa hurdles, VCU's 69 Kuwaiti students still represented the fourth largest group on campus in Spring 2005. A new factor is an announcement last summer by the government of Saudi Arabia of 5,000 scholarships for study in the U.S. This spring, VCU welcomed 83 Saudis, many with families, joining 35 already here.

## Getting from There to Here

till, it's never desire alone that determines whether students can pursue degrees in the

U.S. A brew of politics, economics, personal sacrifice and gut feeling must support a student's interest in academic opportunity. Student visas are highly regulated, and all students must agree to return home after their studies. The availability of visas varies widely among countries, with some students facing a 90 percent visa rejection rate because the U.S. government feels they would not willingly return home after finishing their degrees.

Unless they are athletes, international undergraduates don't qualify for the financial aid that is a crucial piece of higher education funding for most Americans. Without Pell grants or student loans, these students must pay all of their own out-of-state tuition. So their families or governments pay. Kuwaiti students enjoy full tuition scholarships from their government, provided they pursue

professions needed in their country. Thailand's government funds Royal Scholars like **Dr. Kanokwan "Apple" Kittiniyom '02PhD/M**, now on the medical faculty at Mahidol University in Bangkok.

There are more financial options at the graduate level. VCU can bring the brightest international students in

JENNIFER WATSON / VCU LIBRARIES / REVIEWS



VCU arranged an internship at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals for Xiangrong Kong, a PhD candidate in biostatistics. Her mentor in China was former VCU biology professor, Dr. Rhoda Perozzi.



In international photojournalist Maria Monatealegre's "Quinceañera," a young Latina in Richmond marks her womanhood with friends in the traditional 15th birthday celebration.

the sciences to study and work as lab assistants. **Xiangrong "Talaci" Kong**, a PhD candidate in Integrative Life Sciences, receives tuition and a living stipend as a graduate research assistant. After applying to universities in Canada as well, Kong chose VCU.

In her field of biostatistics, "in China, we are doing the theoretical part. I'm more interested in how theories are applied." VCU researchers are involved in several practical projects, and the Biostatistics Department was able to arrange an internship at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in Richmond that will give her the experience she wants badly enough to endure the separation from her husband and family in Beijing.

Kong also had a personal link to VCU. Her mentor at Beijing University of Technology, Dr. Rhoda Perozzi, had left VCU's biology faculty to teach in China. "I know her very well," says Kong. "I thought if I came to here, it would be easier to know friends through her, and the life here might be easier."

"Talaci was a student in my first Oral English for Master's class," recalls Perozzi, who teaches Environmental Ecology and Management to master's-level students at Beijing UT as well as editing for Chinese faculty and doctoral students submitting work to English-language journals and conferences.

"Talaci told me she was interested in the life sciences, even though her background was statistics and she planned to continue in that area." Perozzi knew that VCU was aggressively developing its life sciences research, particularly through collaborations with other disciplines. "I thought it would be a good match."

Tanzanian **Zarina Fazaldin '89MS/H&S** graduated from the University of Bombay in India. Seeing such severe disparities in wealth, caste and social power, "I wanted to know why." So she decided to study sociology. An excellent student, fluent in English, Swahili, Urdu and Hindi, Fazaldin's options for grad school were wide open. "I had looked at Harvard, at schools in Texas and in Iowa," she recalls. "But I received a really friendly note from the chair of the Sociology Department at VCU.

It was very welcoming. I felt impressed, as though he already knew about me."

Some international students arrive via spectacular paths, with a striking breadth of professional experience.

Like Fulbright Scholar **Margarita Montealegre '04MFA**, Nicaragua's first woman photojournalist to document societal change, including land reform and social mobilizations. In 1979, the Organization of International Journalists awarded her First World Prize in Actuality for her coverage of Nicaraguan political events, riots and war. She was designated the official

government photographer for the visits of Pope John Paul II in 1997 and President Bill Clinton in 1999. In a 27-year career, she had created groundbreaking images in a country where photography had rarely been used to document history. In 1985 her picture even appeared on Nicaraguan currency, the 20 cordobas bill.

The Fulbright at VCU "allowed me, for the first time, to look for my own images, not for a client, but for my personal project." Her goal was simple but comprehensive—to document all aspects of life and history in Nicaragua. "The Fulbright office decided VCU's Department

# The world's college

**When the world comes to campus, cultures miss, mash, or we all hope, ultimately mesh a little. All of us can learn so much from each other—and in today's world, we absolutely have to. Openness to the new and a sense of humor help international students and their families grapple with homesickness, transportation, housing, and simple culture shock.**

"Living alone was hard," admits **Khaled Al-Jaber**. Despite her busy class schedule and her work on the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the U.S., she was lonely. "I came from a big family that gathered once a week at my house—that was 80 people. It was also hard to handle all the bills and paperwork that I had never learned about. The independence, especially when I came from a place where women are not independent—that was the hardest thing."

Years of studying English in school did little to prepare **Talaci Kong** for Southern accents and expressions like "Holy cow!" Nonverbal communication can be even more disconcerting. "The human relationships are the same in the world, but the details of life are a little different. In Chinese tradition, we don't hug. Here, people tend to hug to show all their passion."

**Botswanan Isabella Magatse** recalls, "VCU's Office of International Education made it easier, by all the activities planned, such as the Wednesday coffee hour and trips."

**Zarina Fazaldin** recalls the challenges of worshipping as a Muslim in the mid-1980s. "I would ask to visit a mosque and people sent me to the the-

atre." (Richmond's Landmark Theatre adjacent to campus was then known as The Mosque.)

Ultimately, Tanzanian Fazaldin adopted American values and made Richmond home. "I got my citizenship in order to vote in 2004," she says; and she didn't stop there. She registered numerous city voters. Like many Americans, her business partner Lonnie Shiflett registered and voted for the first time, with quiet but strong encouragement from Zarina. Each election, she is at the polls when they open to be the first to vote. "Voting day in Carver is a community celebration," she smiles.

**Eduardo Vidal** understands the mis- cues, and the Brazilian's sense of humor serves new students and families well in his job at the OIE. He observes, "Americans live their lives from their cars. There are drive-in windows for almost any service. You can eat, do your banking, get your dry cleaning—even go to church!"

He adds, "When my father came to visit, he stayed at the Jefferson Hotel, just a few blocks from my office. I kept telling him, 'You can walk to meet me.'" Eyeing the empty sidewalks, Señor Vidal argued, "It's too dangerous. There is no one in these streets!"

Vidal also sees the same defining American characteristics mentioned by almost every international student we interviewed. "Americans are an extremely warm and friendly people. They are also so proud of their country. They have flags everywhere. Their holidays are about heroes and their country. They love America. I think Brazil could learn from

having this pride. We are such a large country with so many resources and we are still so divided by comparison."

**International Student Services Coordinator Pam Haney** would like to see more students bask in that warm American friendliness. "Over 75 percent of the international students who come here still report as they leave that they have not been inside an American home. That's not who we are."

The OIE makes it easy for families to connect with the students, a little or a lot. Be a conversation partner for English practice; share American holidays like the Fourth of July or Thanksgiving; host a student in your home for a month; or be the family away from home for a lonely student like Al-Jaber. Or drop in on the monthly international coffee hour.

In four years of hosting students from Botswana, Ukraine, Hong Kong and more countries, **Cathy Pullen** says, "It's always wonderful! These students are not demanding at all—well, they do eat a lot," she laughs. "But they are so pleased just to be with a family. My children, now 13 and 9, thoroughly enjoy it." Once a couple from Columbia brought their two small girls, and the kids played together for hours. "After they left, I asked my son if he had trouble understanding the girls, because they didn't speak English. He said, 'They didn't? I'm grateful that my children can meet these bright, disciplined students from all over the world.' For details, contact Pam Haney [pohaney@vcu.edu](mailto:pohaney@vcu.edu) or Jaime Bennett [bennettjm@vcu.edu](mailto:bennettjm@vcu.edu); phone 804-828-0808; fax 804-828-2552.

of Photography and Film had the best program for me" to hone her photo-documentary skills. When she returned home, she planned to record Nicaraguan life and history, preserving existing images and making new ones. After VCU graduation, she studied at the Photography Institute's 2004 National Graduate Seminar at Columbia University, one of 20 fellows chosen from 91 finalists from 46 U.S. graduate programs.

Eduardo Vidal '05BA/H&S executed a perfect triple lutz and glided smoothly onto VCU's campus. Four-time

national ice skating champion in Brazil, he had toured the world for six years with Disney on Ice as the handsome young Hercules in *Hercules on Ice*.

"I came to Richmond with the show and met friends here," he recalls. "I was already almost 30. I was finally ready to settle down and apply myself. My friends suggested VCU. And I checked on prices. This was definitely the best deal."

Vidal is a competitor, not one to settle for less than personal best and used to overcoming any degree of difficulty. He graduated from VCU in May with honors and a double major in psychology and political science. "I planned to

From another world entirely, Brazilian Eduardo Vidal (a.k.a. Aladdin) spent six years with Disney on Ice before majoring in psychology and political science at VCU.

go to law school, so political science was obvious." The psychology? "I thought I would find out about myself—and actually, I did learn a few things," he admits. "I had a wonderful experience with all my teachers—maybe they didn't like me," he smiles—"because I would be there at every office hour, asking questions."

Law school waits while VCU's Office of International Education (OIE) benefits from Vidal's experience, competence, and welcome sense of humor. Other foreign students at VCU are grateful for his help with visa documentation and transition to life in the States. "I can offer a special comfort to these students," he chuckles. "They see someone who came here and went through the process."



## World-Changing

he most significant value of VCU's "foreign assets" emerges when these students return to lead their own countries.

Like many of his compatriots who come for graduate degrees in business or public administration, **Yusuf Kaplan '97MBA** took VCU skills home to run Turkey's government. In Ankara he directs the auditing division of the Energy Market Regulatory Authority, which regulates all of Turkey's gas and electric utilities.

When Kaplan arrived at VCU, he had never so much as touched a computer. "In two years at VCU, I learned how to look at issues and events globally. I acquired valuable skills from VCU classes. I owe special thanks to my VCU professors," he wrote.

With her VCU MED in Counseling, Isabella Magetse is training counselors in Botswana, where few schools have personnel to evaluate struggling learners to place them in a mainstream classroom with support or in a school for students with special needs. She is also working extensively in AIDS/HIV education programs.

"Being away from Botswana for two years made me appreciate its people and culture more than ever before. Professionally, I have been able to use my counseling skills, especially since my country is affected by the HIV/AIDS scourge. I have been able to make my contribution in the care of those affected and infected by HIV and AIDS."

Montealegre's U.S. experience sharpened her technical skills and deepened her art and her life. Both she and her 11-year-old daughter Gabriela Sánchez Montealegre learned "to adapt to a new culture, friends, school and language. It was important to break barriers of communication and cultures, to be aware that the U.S. was part of a mix of different races, and that Latinos are an important component of this mixture. It was also important for me as a Nicaraguan to talk and exchange experiences of my country with different people."

She adds, "To photograph many daily activities in Richmond allowed me to meet individuals who later became my best advisors in my project. I had a good relationship with my peers and with professors in my class that helped enormously."

At home in Managua, Montealegre has already begun to fulfill her long-term goal, with two major solo exhibits in Nicaragua funded by Fulbright—at the Institute of History in November, 2004, and at the Teatro Nacional Rubén Darío in March, 2005. She continues to document Nicaraguan heritage. At El Banco Central de Nicaragua, she is reviewing more than 35 years' worth of photographic archives and plans to publish several books about Nicaragua. "I hope the cultural and social analyses of the images contained in these archives will shed light on the social structures, cultural patterns, and social change here."



Tanzanian Zarina Fazaldin has made her home and others in Richmond, renovating houses with Lonnie Shiflett through their business, L&Z Historic, LLC.

Al-Jaber has returned to Kuwait eager and ready to serve with her new skills. "In Kuwait, dentistry is not a prestigious career or one that pays well," she explains. "We have a low standard of care. I think the people of Kuwait deserve better."

VCU has been helping to rectify that since 1987. Through an agreement with the Kuwaiti government, VCU has been educating Kuwait's dentists, from English classes, to undergraduate science prerequisites, right through dental school. The first graduate of the VCU program has already made a strong start in professionalizing dentistry in Kuwait. After graduating first in his class in the School of Dentistry, **Mansour Al-Ajmi '95DDS** took his skills home. He founded the Kuwaiti Dental Society and set up its website: [www.kdakw.com](http://www.kdakw.com).

In a switch, Zarina Falzadin stayed to do her nation-building right here, working at Virginia's Department of Correctional Education (DCE) from 1991-2003 to teach troubled teenage boys with learning disabilities and emotional problems. In a year, her social studies class went from 25 percent passing the state SOLs to 100 percent, earning her an Employee of the Year Award. (Mansour Al-Ajmi could have predicted that. He asked his best friend Zarina to tutor him in English, aiming for a C. "No, no, Mansour, we are not going to do that; you will get an A." He did.)

In Tanzania, Fazaldin's parents had demonstrated that a key duty in life is to the community. "My mother was a housewife and community volunteer." Fazaldin lives and works in the Carver neighborhood adjacent to VCU, "where I feel I'm needed. Most of us, we run away to where it looks comfortable and familiar."

Fazaldin's father was a builder, and in 2003 she and Lonnie Shiflett founded L & Z Historic, LLC, renovating and selling historic houses. They have renovated several Carver houses that were severely damaged in the 2004 fire during construction of a VCU dorm. "It's satisfying

to see that student back in his house again." And good work is good investment. One rundown house that L & Z bought for \$75,000, renovated and sold for \$240,000, was recently sold again for \$386,000.

Aware of potential problems of gentrification for her neighbors, she is considering a low-income apartment project for older people. She works with the housing and community development arms of the Carver Civic Association and the Carver-VCU Partnership. Most of her volunteering is small, direct, ad hoc projects, from employing and training single women and older men, to picking up trash on the street. "I'm living where I work, so I know the community." It's no surprise to anyone but Fazaldin that her classmates in Leadership Metro Richmond's Class of 2005 chose her as their graduation speaker.

Her sociology classes at VCU have been valuable in everything she does. "I knew how to motivate my students at the DCE. Understanding how systems work and the dynamics of groups is important in my business—talking with workers, or bankers or lawyers."

VCU alumni like Dr. Lulu Al-Jaber return (or stay) with essential skills and a true international perspective. As women take their place in Kuwait, women like Al-Jaber will help lead Kuwait to its place in the world. The contributions of VCU's international alumni are making a better world for all of us. They are a testament to their VCU educations and to their own dedication and professionalism.

*Meg Medina is a Richmond freelance writer.*

Students on page 20, around the world clockwise from noon: Barbara Strohmer, Austria; Simon Morris, Scotland; Ngawina Mkandawire, Malawi; Andreas Schwab, Germany; Marie Herault-Delanaoe, Côte d'Ivoire; Benjamin Garçon, France; and Amol Deshmukh, India.



# WORLD CLASS

BY JANE MITCHELL

Immersion in Scots culture meant visits to "Edinburgh castle, Glasgow, a whiskey distillery. We even went to a *ceilidh* (kay-lee), a sort of Scottish hoe-down, held at the Caledonian brewery in Edinburgh." And for music major Stephanie Davenport, pubcrawling with her mates at the Sandy Bells to catch an evening of Celtic music counted as research.

Davenport spent a semester in 2004 studying flute performance and technique as well as Scottish culture and society at Napier University in Edinburgh. She made the most of her time in Edinburgh. She joined the Edinburgh Royal Choral Union and sang Edward Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* with the Scottish BBC Orchestra at Edinburgh's Usher Hall. Another highlight was meeting and performing for Scottish composer, Eddie McGuire, a friend of her flute teacher. "I brought the music back to Virginia and introduced the composer and his other works to my classmates and to Fancile Bilyeu, my flute professor at VCU."

Davenport lived with other international students in a flat in Edinburgh. Living in a strange place with students from all over the world created a profound shift in her. "Everyone is experiencing life in a more active way," she says. "When you return to your home country, you continue living actively and asking questions about your own country and looking at your own life from a fresh angle."

She returned from Scotland ready to tell the world about study abroad. "I wanted to put on a sandwich sign and walk around campus to advertise my experience," she smiles. "Everyone should see how easy the process is, and, more important,

how fulfilling it is to travel and meet new people." She got her chance, with an internship at VCU's Office of International Education that has become a fulltime job, helping other students tailor a study abroad program most valuable to them.

## *Exec to Exec in Zurich*

VCU's Fast Track MBA Program builds in global connections for its working executive students. Director Bill Miller, Dr. Van Wood, and Dr. Dennis O'Toole led a group of 37 students, guests and faculty to Zurich in May, 2005. "Switzerland is a mandatory part of our curriculum," he says.

The students themselves choose the Swiss companies they want to learn from, often firms with connections to their home businesses. Alstrom Power is a turbine manufacturer in Zurich with a facility in South Richmond. Students got a sense of world neighbors when Miller renewed acquaintance with Elvia Travel's CEO—formerly "my next door neighbor in the West End."

Covering a range of industries, they visited Credit Suisse Bank, as well as the Swiss National Bank, comparable to the U.S. Federal Reserve. Furfer-Jacot is a Swiss custom jewelry maker. A visit to a Swiss



watchmaker was de rigueur. International Watch Company sells watches ranging from \$3,000 to \$450,000. "They sell 50 a year of the \$450k watches," Miller says. REGA's air helicopters rescue and evacuate the sick or injured around the world. (No Swiss chocolate in 2005, alas.)

Bill Kitchens, in information technology at Richmond's Federal Reserve Bank, was amazed that Swiss businesses succeed at "balancing protectionism and participation in the global economy. It is very difficult to maintain the high wages and prices when surrounded by cheaper goods and services available from the EU countries." Also, "compared to Americans, the Swiss are very reluctant to change," making risk and innovation difficult.

Kitchen observes, "The 'life' portion of the work/life balance equation is weighted more heavily." His classmate Vivian Willis '82BSH&S agrees. Most Swiss mothers, she notes, stay at home with children under six. "They don't leave their small children with babysitters or nurseries the way most American women do," she says.

Willis, a flavor scientist for Philip Morris, had been to Switzerland several times during her 26-year business career. This trip gave her time to chat with Swiss colleagues and learn more about Swiss taste so she could go home and develop ingredients to appeal to that market.

## *Fast Food for Thought*

Short-term summer programs are a smorgasbord of language and experience that can compliment or bring welcome variety to a student's major—fast food for thought, maybe, but still plenty nourishing. In summer 2005, 227 students earned credits in VCU courses ranging from

*"Everyone is experiencing life in a more active way."*

STEPHANIE DAVENPORT '04BM

anthropology to photography in 18 countries, from Austria, Barbados and China to Guatemala, Korea and Switzerland.

## *Arts in the Highlands*

"My heart's in the highlands," said Scottish poet Robert Burns, echoed by Stephanie Davenport. Other VCU students are finding their arts in the Highlands—of Peru. The OIE and VCU's School of the Arts, with Encuentros Instituto Internacional, offers the 26-day "Visual Exploration of the Highlands Arts." Students tour art and archeology museums, and trek in the breathtaking Andes to investigate ancient and colonial sites like Machu Picchu, earning six art credits.

"The trip gives art students an opportunity to dig and dive into spaces," says program director, Javier Tapia, VCU professor of painting and printmaking. "They take the jungles on one hand and the wide peaks on the other." Sculpture major Kim Zitgow studied photography in Peru in 2003. "The Inca trails on the four-day hike to Machu Picchu are physically challenging and mentally beautiful."

"We plan the trip around the Festival of Corpus Cristi in Cuzco," says Tapia, a Peruvian native who has been taking groups "home" for nine years. By the time of the festival in early June, Zitgow observes, students have learned the meanings of the masks and rituals and they are ready to respond artistically.

Scott Mills teaches photography and film on the trip, and he has captured three summers' worth of student growth on the 25 hours of video he shot for *VCU in Peru*. "Students are exposed to conceptual ideas that may not be represented within their major," he comments. "I encourage them to consider that they are being exposed to Peru and the landscape of the Andes much in the way they expose film in a camera to light." Each student develops a unique new vision in those mountains and museums.

"Having a month to explore and search for images to portray in

drawings or photos made this one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life," says senior crafts major Samantha Schockley. "As I wandered through Cuzco looking for material to draw, I realized I was trying to extract the essence of Peru. I usually draw from me," she adds, "but this trip made me include Cuzco as seen through my eyes."

"I wanted to see in person what I had only seen on slides," says Mary Burford, a student of Pre-Columbian Art.

Zitgow uses photography now as a sculpture medium. "I learned casually through many conversations with lots of photographers on the trip." She also experienced the way a camera can help you assimilate a new place. "By the end of the trip, photos I'd taken at the beginning made more sense to me, because I'd learned so much more about the subjects."

"The trip is open to everyone," says Tapia. "You don't have to speak Spanish or submit an art portfolio." In fact, "we deliberately seek a mix of students. The chemistry of the groups has been wonderful." In 2005, 23 VCU students were joined by nine from Weber State in Utah.

## *Artists and Writers in Glasgow*

**Heather McIver '04MA/H&S** went to Glasgow in summer 2004 as a graduate student in Writing and Rhetoric. "I'd always wanted to do a study abroad program, but I never wanted to be away for a whole semester," she says. "I'd heard Glasgow was an industrial city that had reinvented itself through art and culture."

VCU has summer and semester programs through Glasgow School of the Arts. British artists and writers provide lectures, readings and workshops. Students have long weekends to explore the city or travel. On field trips they take in area plays, museums, gardens--and castles. Like Hospitalfield House, McIver's favorite, now an artists' retreat on the coast. "The castle had a walled garden, and

you walked beside a wheat field to reach the North Sea."

McIver also found that Scottish conversation had more substance than at home. "Cab drivers or people sitting next to you on the bus would give you their opinions on art, city planning, and all sorts of other things." She adds, "I feel like everything I saw, read and experienced will filter into my writing for a long time."

Sculpture major Tim Esterheld took advantage of Europe's affordable public transportation. From Glasgow, "I got to Dublin and to Alicante, Spain."

The city's Victorian architecture inspired sculpture major Shawn Lotze. "One of the pieces I did had to do with huge historic buildings that hovered over little glass convenience stores on the ground floor." Back in the U.S., Lotze is still "playing with viewer perspectives, using maps and global positioning. I do more with atmospheres, and quasi-homes, such as bus stops with roofs."

Zitgow spent fall 2004 in Glasgow. She spent most of her "studio" time exploring Glasgow. "I took 200 photographs of little things I could bring back for site specific installation work," she says, like a series of pawn shop window displays of jewelry. "I videotaped kids playing arcade games and suitemates playing videogames. It related to the violent history, the gang rivalry in the city between Protestants and Catholics."

## *Barbados: New World, New Self*

"You are definitely a different person when you get back home," says history major Brad Stewart about his trip to Barbados in 2004. Dr. Bernard Moitt, born in Antigua, leads History and Culture in Barbados each summer. Moitt specializes in histories and literatures of the Caribbean and Africa. Students in the program also spend a day with Barbados families

"I get cards and emails from former participants who are emotional about what this program has done for them," says Moitt. Besides

# DEGREES OF DIFFERENCE

"I really love the opportunity to encourage other VCU students to do what I did," says study abroad advisor Stephanie Davenport. To find an experience that fits, start with some basic questions, she says. What to study? Where? When, for how long? Why? What do you want from the experience?

How foreign? "Students need to decide how far they are willing to be pushed outside of their comfort zone," says Davenport. "Language is a big issue. Fortunately, even in many non-English speaking countries, abroad programs offer classes in English. "Living in that country may still be a challenge without any language experience," she cautions.

What? And more. Abroad courses are offered in every field, so students can find a program that fits their needs—like Napier University's excellent music program for flute major Davenport. But, she urges, look beyond the obvious. "Students can expand their horizons with courses like Italian Wines or Music Therapy that VCU doesn't offer."

Where and how to live? Living arrangements can make or break an abroad experience. With a host family, in an apartment, in a dorm? An international or American dorm may limit your contact with the local culture and people. But too much independence can also be stressful and isolating.

Where? And still more. "Edinburgh is a cosmopolitan city, so I knew I would have the experience of attending and participating in music concerts and recitals." Choose a place with history, or art, interesting politics or business, or great dancing and beaches—and then use it.

How? Financial aid. Crafts major Dara Saunders visited Peru in summer 2004. "I just wanted the chance to travel while I could use student loans."

Safety is now even more significant for U.S. students abroad. VCU's Office of International Education will not send students to countries that are listed on the U.S. Department of State's travel warning list.

There's a world of opportunity open to VCU students, Davenport stresses. "If there is an accredited program in Bora Bora, a student can most likely go. As long as the program offers university credit, the options are limitless."

earning six credits in History and African-American Studies, students gain first-hand insights into a Caribbean island's history. They learn to see racial issues—and themselves—very differently.

"There are things you can't get from a textbook, or watching a video," says Stewart. "From Dr. Moitt's book, we knew that sugarcane leaves cut the slaves in the fields," he says. "But it really hit us when we got lost in a sugarcane field and the razor sharp things cut our arms. You can read, and the professor can tell you, but this was firsthand stuff."

"Barbados attracts the largest number of African-Americans of any abroad program," says Moitt, who enjoys watching students' faces as they enter the airport. "From the moment we land, African Americans find themselves

in the majority." White students are suddenly the minority. "But surprisingly (to the students), without racial antagonism," Moitt adds "—no one says you are not welcome because you are white." Many students, white and black, he says, are amazed to see blacks running such a highly organized, educated society with a tourist industry catering to the wealthiest of Caribbean vacationers.

The flipped world of Barbados brings students together as they grapple with emerging realizations about race and society. "People open up there in a way they never do in a Richmond classroom," says Moitt. Gathering in seaside dorm rooms at the University of the West Indies, some admit and start to confront preconceptions held since childhood.

## Global Shifts

Barbados may change perceptions dramatically from black and white to colors, but every student abroad sees with fresh vision, in aspects large and small.

Bethany Guckert studied forensics at University of West England. Thriving amid differences gave her confidence. "Knowing that I can successfully be part of a community so different from my own and be comfortable is priceless!"

Part of the fun of living in another country is observing that although phones and taxis operate differently, they still serve the purpose. In the forensics lab, Anderson noticed, the British package paint chips differently from the American protocol, but both protect the evidence. "There is more than one way to solve a problem," says Anderson, "and coming to UWE has definitely shown that to me."

Mary Burford misses the Peruvian people and "how easy it was to communicate without words."

Stewart began to reevaluate the American lifestyle. "I came home to Richmond to find my friends all stressed out," he says. "In Barbados, they told me life's too short to be stressed out—they live life to the fullest."

"To live abroad as a local is much different than just traveling through another country," Davenport comments. "I think all students should have that experience." **Ingrid Mercer '05MPA/H&S**, director of immigration services at the OIE, agrees. "During my semester in Madrid and my year in Slovakia," she says, "I may have missed a few sights—but I wasn't there as a tourist; I was there as a person."

*Jane Mitchell is a freelance writer in Richmond.*

*Top student photos from VCU Study Abroad Competition on page 26.*

# VCU: GOOD PEOPLE IN

BY THOMAS GRESHAM AND M. E. MERCER

*Although Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck many miles from VCU, those winds blew through campus and beyond. Students, faculty, staff and alumni of VCU and the VCU Health System mobilized their will, their wallets, and their skills.*



## FROM THE UNIVERSITY...

Thirty-five students displaced from their Gulf Coast schools enrolled at VCU for the fall semester, some already in class a week after Katrina hit. Music student Nicholas Solnick is now studying jazz education at the Rotterdam Conservatoire, funded by the Dutch government, but plans to return and finish his VCU degree in Jazz Performance. His mother wrote, "I can't thank you, the finance department, housing department, jazz department, and everyone else enough....I can guarantee [VCU] will be the University I suggest to all young high school music students I know....This is the place that makes you feel at home."

Among several forums and lectures on campus, VCU's Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs sponsored "Hurricane Katrina and its Aftermath: Five Perspectives," in November. In January, "Hurricane Katrina and the Media" addressed race and class issues brought out in Katrina's aftermath.

## RAISING MONEY...

Alumni organizations made donations and volunteered: VCU Alumni Association; MCV Alumni Association of VCU; African American Alumni Council; Young Alumni Council; DC Metro Chapter Board; Hampton Roads Chapter Board; VCU Student Alumni Ambassadors. Among the largest Katrina fundraising projects at VCU was a fund drive at the VCU Health System, which netted \$134,000 for Katrina relief, including a \$50,000 matching donation from the VCU Health System administration.

On campus, Swipes for Katrina raised more than \$10,000 when Dining Services and Aramark let students donate meal credits to the American Red Cross. Students organized Rams for Relief weekend in October—a concert and Halloween events—collecting thousands of canned goods and more than \$4,000.

K.B. Basseches, VCU assistant professor of art education, wanted to raise money and give artists a chance to respond to Katrina creatively. She organized "... and the levee broke: meditations on the power of water." Student and professional artists from across the country and abroad sent their work. The touring exhibit raised money for art supplies for Gulf Coast students.

Saxophonist and New Orleans native **Victor Goines '90MM** was very visible in NBC's Concert For Hurricane Relief and a special "Live from Lincoln Center" on PBS.

# A CRISIS

## ...AND GIVING THEIR TIME AND SKILL

Many VCU alumni and staff trekked to the Gulf Coast region to work in Katrina and Rita recovery efforts.

**Bill Leighty** '79MBA, chief of staff for Virginia's Governor Mark Warner, helped Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco's administration in the aftermath of the storm. Television images of Katrina, Leighty commented, "do not convey the magnitude of what occurred." This is a catastrophe that doesn't fit in the box. "The scale of the devastation was so much worse, so much more enormous."

**Pat Roberts** '02MPA is senior assistant to the chief administrative officer for the City of Richmond. He directed aid to Moss Point, Mississippi, where Richmond helped restore water and power; donated food, tools and materials; and assessed damage in many of the town's 5,700 homes, most of them under saltwater.

VCU student **Kier McGuire** saw dramatic changes Katrina brought to her hometown of Kenner, Louisiana. Many residents have decided to live elsewhere, daunted by the task of rebuilding. Families with children on the swim team she coached are moving away. "When I go back and visit, those people won't be there anymore. That's really hard for me."

Dr. Ronald Merrell, VCU professor of surgery, brought television that did more than simply watch disaster unfold. Merrill is director of VCU's Medical Informatics and Technology Application Consortium with NASA, which supported medical relief and coordinated telemedicine networking through the NASA Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. He and his team knew they couldn't rely on FEMA or state agencies. "We had to take what we had and get creative." Ultimately, Merrell felt, the medical team did answer the challenges and "what we were asked to do worked out pretty well."

That was useful experience in January when Merrill and **Dr. Azhar Rafiq** '03MBA, scientific director of the VCU-NASA center, went to Pakistan to set up 13 telemedicine stations linked to hospitals there. Three million people were displaced by the October 8 earthquake in the region. The VCU physicians planned "to use telemedicine and electronic communication in the refugee camps," Merrill told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

**Kim Hunter** '94BSW '95MSW spent 12 days in New Orleans and Mississippi with a pet rescue team—pulling wounded, emaciated dogs, cats and birds off roofs; organizing feeding and treatment stations; distributing pet food to owners still at home; and driving 150 cats to Northern Virginia in vans. "There were 8,000 pets found, 3,000 dead so far," she said in January. She



mentioned proudly Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad Allen's comment that "Pet rescue was the only thing going well down there." It was necessity," she added. "There's not but so long you can hold fifteen dogs on a leash."

Smart, effective bureaucrats can also be heroes. The Associated Press noted in September that the 50,000 patients served by the Veteran's Health Administration's (VHA) New Orleans medical center had complete access to their computerized records after Hurricane Katrina—"a bright exception" to the plight of many storm victims. **Dr. Jonathan Perlin** '91PhD '92MD/M '97MSHA/AHP, now Under Secretary for Health in the Department of Veterans Affairs, had led the VHA in reorganizing VHA's computerized health records.

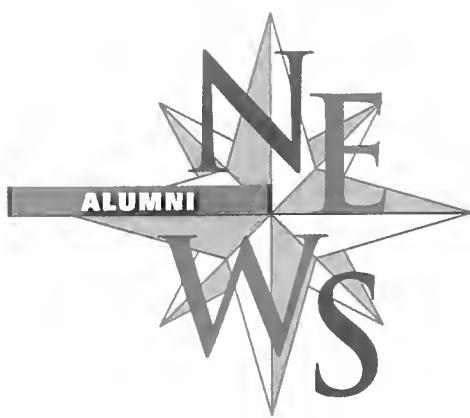
If devastation was awesome, so was hope. VCU relief workers bore witness to extraordinary courage and moving rescues. **Jose Belardo** '88BSW '90MSW, in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, was sent to a naval air station in Meridian, Mississippi, to set up a medical station. "The stories from some patients were heartbreaking," Belardo said. "However, a number of stories had happy endings. You got to see the good in a lot of people. It was touching to witness people finding one another again."

Even by November, McGuire saw the determination to rebuild at home. The local mall had reopened. "People are getting back their normal lives," she said. "It just is significantly altered."

**Shane Townsend** '02MURP is in Baton Rouge this spring with Save the Children, which now assists in domestic as well as foreign emergencies. SC has trained teachers to help children and parents with psychosocial needs and provided mini-grants to help daycare centers reopen. They are also setting up "safe places" in temporary trailer camps with toys and books where children and parents can spend time. "Children are always the most affected in disasters like this," Townsend says. "It's ongoing," he emphasizes. "We're teaming with other agencies, like Boys and Girls Clubs, to supply more long-term needs for mentoring and tutoring."

Co-anchor **Aaron Gilchrist** '03BS/MC reported from the Gulf Coast for WWBT-TV in Richmond. "In the places we went to, people weren't trying to figure out who was at fault, they were trying to get to the next level—'let's get through this together.' Regular people did a lot to help each other early on and I think they continue to do so now."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIM HUNTER '94BSW '95MSW



## 1950s

\*Sarah Drummond-Schell '50BFA is a trustee for the Orlando Opera and for Emory and Henry College in Emory, VA. She restored 1876 Rockwood Manor in Southwest Virginia.

## 1960s

Judith Friedman '65MSW is coordinator of family counseling for the School Board of Broward County, FL. • Sandra (Trettel) Grabman '68Assoc/B lives in Duncan, OK and has written *Spotlights & Shadows* about actor Albert Salmi and *Plain Beautiful* about actress Peggy Ann Garner, Salmi's wife. A book on humorist Pat Buttram comes out next fall. • Alberta Lindsey '64BS/MC went to southern Sudan and Nairobi, Kenya to reunite a "lost boy of Sudan" with his family. A farmer gave her a cow, which she asked him to sell and donate the money to a local secondary school. • Lydia Vaughan '68BS/E teaches math and English to juvenile prisoners for the VA Department of Correctional Education. She was the Department's 2005 Agency Star. Lydia is also president of the South Richmond Chapter of Altrusa International.

## 1970s

Pamela Barefoot '72BS/H&S was featured in the May 2005 *Southern Living*, mid-Atlantic edition. She is founder and owner of Blue Crab Bay Company, a specialty-food supply store based in Virginia. • David Blashkin '77MBA is a senior research associate with E.I. DuPont in Richmond. • T. Neal Burton II '71BS/B is owner of Financial Management Services in Pittsfield, MA. • R. Paul Childress Jr. '79MBA is a partner in Childress, Gould & Russell, PC in Richmond. • Jo Lynne DeMary '72MED She retired in December, 2005 after five years as Superintendent of VA Public Schools and a 37-year career in public education. Governor Mark Warner proclaimed November 30th as "Jo Lynne DeMary Day." She is also president of the VCU Alumni Association Board. • Rex Ellis '74BFA, vice president for Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Historic Area, was featured in the May 2005 *Southern Living*, mid-Atlantic edition. • Paul Fleisher '75MED retired after 27 years of teaching in Richmond Public Schools. He is now assistant director of the Richmond Peace Education Center. • Michael Flynn '74BA/H&S '77MSW is a licensed clinical social worker in Richmond. • Harold Gellis '75MBA is vice president of compliance with Davenport & Company LLC in Richmond. • William Gentry '78BS/E

is a sergeant with the Richmond Police. • \*Daniel Gill '72BS/B is vice president of Dayvon Services, Inc. in Burke, VA. • Cynthia Hatch '75BS/B '79MBA is budget manager for the Commonwealth of Virginia. • Robert Hawthorne '71BS/B is market president for United Bank in Vienna, VA. • Peter Hubicki '78MBA is a project manager with Get The Lead Out, LLC in Charlotte, NC. • Ken Hynes '79MBA is an SR Infrastructure Analyst with ACS in Glen Allen, VA. • Brent Lerch '77BS/B '78MBA is principal and sole owner of Insurance Personnel Resources. • \*Charlotte McAdams '71BS/E is a legal administrative assistant for the VA Division of Child Support Enforcement in Richmond, where she lives. • Richard McCann '72BA/H&S has published *Mother of Sorrows*, a collection of stories. He has received many fellowships and is co-director of the creative writing graduate program at American University in Washington, DC, where he lives. • Dr. Leonard Reid '73BS/MC is professor of advertising and associate dean for research and graduate studies in the University of Georgia's College of Journalism and Mass Communication. He was named a fellow of the American Academy of Advertising in February 2005. • Franklin Rockwell '71BS/H&S is executive director of the Powhatan-Goochland Community Action Agency, providing essential services to low-income residents. • Thomas Savage '78BS/MC is president of the Fredericksburg Area Bar Association. • James Smith II '77MSW was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor in the Division of Social Work at the University of Wyoming. • Thomas Vorenberg '78MBA is "chief cook and bottle washer" with Vorenberg Associates in Bingham Farms, MI.

## 1980s

Herbert Armstrong '83MBA is the assistant dean and director of the MBA program at Nichols College in Dudley, MA. • Steven Bateson '86MBA is the internal audit assistant director for Chesterfield County Public Schools, VA. • Lt. Col. Rudy Burwell '85BS/MC is currently assistant executive officer for the Chief, Army Reserve, at the Pentagon. The

U.S. Army awarded him a one-year fellowship at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. • Jimmie Butler '86BS/B '89MBA is a data engineer with FGM, Inc. in Reston, VA. • Ken Candelora '83MBA is a registered representative with Lincoln Financial in Jackson, MS. • Sallie Cross '83MBA is a consultant with SunTrust Mortgage in Richmond. • Bruce Cruser '80MSW is director of the Community Corrections Program for Henrico County, VA. • Diana Detamore '76BFA '80MFA exhibited her drawings and painting in a solo show, *Excavations*, at Main Art Gallery in Richmond in February 2005. • Michael Dixon '83MBA is the senior vice president for Hanover Bank in Mechanicsville, VA. • \*Jim Dodson '89BFA and his wife own a Victorian bed and breakfast in Fulton, MO and welcome fellow alumni. [www.romancingthepast.com](http://www.romancingthepast.com). • Linda Singleton-Driscoll '85MBA is director of analysis with Southeastern Institute of Research, Inc. in Richmond. • Patty Durand '88BS/B is a program director for the Sandy Springs Conservancy in Georgia. • Jacqueline Dwyer '83MBA is the international sales administration manager with Domestic Environmental Corporation in Mechanicsville, VA. • Zarina Fazaldin '89MS/H&S was named 2005 Richmond Star for Small Business Management by the American Business Women's Association. • Michael Friedberger '85MBA is product development process manager with American Standard Inc. in Piscataway, VA. • Anita Garland '83MBA is dean of admissions with Hampden-Sydney College in Hampden-Sydney, VA. • Lenore Gay's short story '70BS '84MS/H&S '91MS/AHP won first place in *Style Weekly's* competition, published October 19, 2005. She is a licensed professional counselor with a ten-year private practice. • \*Eden Glenn '84MBA is director of clinical operations at VCU Health Systems Psychiatry Department. • Victor Goines '90MM was noted by *Jazziz* for his clarinet work with Wynton Marsalis and The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra on the CD *A Love Supreme*. • Eugene Grecheck '81MBA is the nuclear support services vice president with Dominion Generation in Glen Allen, VA. • Elizabeth Gundlach '87MS/B is

## African-American Alumni 2006 Reunion

All African-American Alumni are welcome to the 2006 Reunion.

VCU campuses (and your classmates) have a new look.

Check out the glamour and the moves at the traditional Saturday dance and other events. Details in the brochure mailed in March, or contact Larry Powell at 804-828-8194 or [lpowell@vcu.edu](mailto:lpowell@vcu.edu).

**April 28-30**

employed by Network International Solutions in Alexandria, VA. • **Julie Harvey's '85BFA Go-Go** exhibit in NYC was reviewed by *NY Arts Magazine* last fall. • **Paul Haynes '89MBA** is a regulatory and pricing advisor with Dominion Virginia Power in Richmond. • **Jeanne Hechler '75BS '81MBA** is first vice president with SunTrust Mortgage in Richmond. • **Jason Hendrix '88BS/MC**, named 2004 International Mr. Leather, focused on HIV/AIDS and voter registration during his tenure. • **Susan Higginbotham '81BA/H&S** has published *The Traitor's Wife: A Novel of the Reign of Edward II*. • **Jerome Jones Jr.'s '81BFA** paintings, *The Root and the Fruit of Life*, were exhibited at Richmond's Ascend, Inc. art gallery last September. • **Merle Kahn, Ph.D. '84MBA** is the QC services manager with Boehringer Ingelheim Chemicals Inc. in Petersburg, VA. • **Beth Kelly '85MBA** is quality system integration director for Philip Morris in Richmond. • **Ben Madden '89BGS/H&S** has launched a website, BikeCenturies.com, which is an extensive internet-based cycling calendar. • **Linda Martin '82MBA** is the administrative director of human resources with Bon Secours Richmond Health System. • **Laura Merrell '85MBA** is a senior business developer at FTI in Washington, DC. • **Floyd Miller II '89BS/B** married Holly Byrd on April 30, 2005. • **Vincent Pate '84MBA** is an accounting supervisor with Smurfit-Stone Container in Hopewell, VA. • **Anne Perkins '84BFA** exhibited her paintings at Ginger Levit's Richmond atelier in December and January. She is on the board of the Richmond Artists' Association. • **Kimberly Perry '89BS/B** is employed as a research analyst with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. • **Kathy Petronchak '80BS/B** is director of pre-filing and technical guidance with the IRS, where she has worked since 1979. • **Marc Ramsey '71BFA '85MFA and Jill Ramsey '84BFA** are co-owners of Owens & Ramsey Bookstore in Richmond. They have rented books to film companies and the ABC series *Commander in Chief*. Marc is also a civil war re-enactor who volunteers at the Museum of the Confederacy. • **Frank Shuman '81MBA** is the ETECT leader of performance products with Honeywell in Orange, TX. • **Sandra Silvestre '84MED** has received a Teaching Award in Filmmaking from the North Carolina School of the Arts. In 32 years of teaching, she received top teaching awards at her schools, Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year, a Community Service Award from the Association of Retarded Citizens, and a 1995 VA Center for the Humanities Fellowship also from PBS, BBC, and the Discovery Channel. Her students won a 2003 Honorable Mention Regional News Emmy and national tv internships. She is library media specialist and teaches video journalism/tv production/international film at Meadowbrook HS in Chesterfield County, VA. • **Dr. Charles Smith '77BS/H&S '81MS/AH** published a novel, *A Funeral, A Wedding, and the Journey Between*, with Ivy House Publishing Group. • **Robert Smith Jr. '78BS/B '81MBA** is a senior tax analyst and tax manager with Tredegar Corporation in

Richmond. • **Billie Snell '76BS/B '82MBA** is the minister for Cold Harbor Road Church of Christ in Mechanicsville, VA. • **Dewey Swicegood '84MBA** is COO with VaLiance Health in Harrisonburg, VA. • **Kimberly Tetlow '80BFA** is the new director of Richmond's 1708 Gallery. She was associate director of development for VCU's School of the Arts, and has also served in management and development at Theatre IV, Barksdale Theatre, Elk Hill, Studio Theatre of Richmond and TheatreVirginia. • **James Thomas '86MBA** is executive vice president and COO with Southside Bank in Tappahannock, VA. • **Michael Toler '88BA/H&S** is editor of the NITLE online resource on Arab culture and civilization. He is also program director for the initiative in Arab and Islamic cultures. He is interested in researching the translation of Maghrebi fiction into English. • **Judith Vido '85BS/H&S '89MSW** recently published two romance novels, *A Living Heart and A Searching Heart*, at [www.lulu.com/vido](http://www.lulu.com/vido). Vido, who is blind, has done peer counseling with blind diabetics and led a group for substance abusers. • **Patrick Vines '79BS/B '80MBA** is director of accounting controls with Dominion Resources Services, Inc. in Richmond. • **\*Eric Whittleton '84BS/H&S '86Cert/B** is executive vice president and COO of Information Systems Support in Gaithersburg, MD. • **Steve Wilson (sax) and Clarence Penn '91BM (drums)** toured with Grammy-winner Maria Schneider in Europe and NYC in the fall. Wilson's Generations ensemble performed at the Kennedy Center Jazz Club in Washington in October. The *New York Times* called Steve "among the best New York jazz has to offer."

## 1990s

**Louis Abbey MFA/H&S** retired as chair of VCU's Department of Dental Pathology in August 2004 to Revere, MA with his wife, Chris. He is sailing, teaching part-time at Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and writing essays and short articles. He's on the editorial board for *The Catboat Association Bulletin*. • **Jennifer (Athas) Reid '96BS/E** married Shawn Reid on July 23, 2005. They live in Mechanicsville, VA. • **Athena Bachas '92MBA** is administrative director of planning and business development at Bon Secours Richmond Health System. • **Smith Baker '74BS/B '97MBA** is the assistant city manager of Columbia, SC. • **William Baker '94BS/B '97MBA** is a leaf market operations coordinator with Philip Morris USA in Richmond. • **Sunny (Barnes) Ogburn '98BS/B** married Jonathan Ogburn on March 19, 2005. She is an accountant with Trilegiant Loyalty Solutions and lives in Sandston, VA. • **Angela Bell '93BS/H&S '97MED** was named 2005 Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the VA School Counselors Association. She lives in Richmond. • **John Brubaker '95BS/B** is owner of Quality Auto Parts, LLC in Winchester, VA. • **Marsha (Butler) Stevens '92BS/MC** is a development specialist with Capital One in Richmond. Her son, Kyle Ryan, was born December 28, 2004. • **Angela (Butterfield) Carter '95BA/H&S, MT** married



## African-American History-Makers

On February 16, the African-American Studies Program held its annual "Black History in the Making," when more than 25 outstanding African-American students were honored for their extraordinary academic and community achievements.

VCU's African-American Alumni Council also recognized Alumni of the Year for 2005 and 2006. Former AAAC president Linnie Carter '92BS '98MS/MC (2005) is vice president of college advancement at Lord Fairfax Community College and executive director of the Lord Fairfax Community College Educational Foundation, Inc. <http://www.alumni.vcu.edu/AAAC/bhmcarter.html>

**Dr. Micah McCreary '90MS '94PhD** (2006) is VCU's assistant vice provost for diversity and a professor of psychology. His primary research is in family psychology, especially influences of race, ethnicity, gender, and culture on parenting. <http://www.hsc.vcu.edu/psy/faculty/mccreary.html> Dr. McCreary, Council President **Franklin Wallace '87BFA** and Linnie Carter above.

James Carter on August 27, 2005. The couple lives in Mechanicsville, VA. • **Tim Bylow '93MBA** is a portfolio director with Highwoods Properties in Raleigh, NC. • **Robert Campbell '96MBA** is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S.

Army and an investigator with the Secretary of the Army Inspector General Agency in Arlington, VA. • **Sloan Canaday '98MBA** works with Colony Group in Richmond as a project manager. • **Maureen Carley '93BS '95MBA/B** is the ISRI associate director and assistant to the chair of VCU's Department of Information Systems. • **Julie Carwile '83BS/E '94MS/B** is assistant professor of business at John Tyler Community College in Richmond. • **Thomas Chamberlin '95MBA** is manager of insurance and member financial services at Old Dominion Electric Cooperative in Glen Allen, VA. • **Kelly Cipriani '93BS/B** is a corporate controller for Consolidated Theatres in Charlotte, NC. • **Mike Connatser '90BS/B '96MBA** is a senior broker with All Risks Ltd. in Richmond. • **Raegen (Craddock) Dinelli '96MT** married Michael Dinelli on June 18, 2005. She teaches in Chesterfield County, VA, where they live. • **Sheila Crowley '76BSW '78MSW '98PhD/SW** is president and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition and an adjunct professor for VCU. • **Jason Cullop '91BS/H&S** married Tonya McCarthy on February 26, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **James Dameron '90BS/B** married Karen Cole '97DDS on May 28, 2005. James is a director with EnterBridge

# The Baldaccis: A VCU Family

Choosing a college was no struggle for bestselling author David Baldacci '83BA/H&S '01HDL. "My brother, Rudy, and sister, Sharon, had gone to VCU and had good experiences," he says. "It was a good fit for me." Then, and later. David serves on the Board of Visitors and helped establish the Creative Writing Program's First Novelist Award. He was a 2000 Alumni Star, received an honorary doctorate in 2001, and the School of Mass Communications will induct him into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame in April. This family is so at home at VCU, they have their own front parlor in the Alumni House, created by David's generous gift.

"I always joked that I took more classes from Dr. Robert Holsworth, now dean of Humanities and Sciences, than anyone in University history," recalls David, whose political science major came in very handy later in a career that took off with worldwide best-selling thrillers. (The editor once found a copy of *Absolutna Kontrola* in a bookstore in Slovakia.)

He learned much more than subject matter from Holsworth. "We had to write a lot and organize our thoughts. We had to read a lot. I learned critical reasoning tools that I will use all of my life. He remains a good friend today."

David also appreciated the practical experience that many of his professors could share with students. "I didn't feel isolated from the real world. We could apply our skills in a real setting. That was one of the school's hallmarks."

Sharon Baldacci '98BS/MC is also a writer, first a journalist and now a novelist, author of *A Sundog Moment*, with a second novel, *Reflected Light*, nearly finished. The first image of VCU that pops into her mind is the aging elegance of the older homes that served as classrooms—and the powerful waft of chlorine whenever she saw her advisor in the basement of Franklin Street gym.

Her advisor Ed Arnold taught layout and design 8-10 a.m. "He could actually make the class interesting that early in the morning! I also remember his distinctive low, resonating voice. (I had lost 50 percent of my hearing in both ears after having mumps in the third grade.) I remember learning so much from him—partly because I could actually hear what he was saying."

With a great foundation from VCU, Rudy Baldacci '76BFA has had a successful career in art. A recent project was illustrating David's children's book, *Freddie and the French Fries*. "My favorite teachers were John Bowie and Nicholas Apgar. They inspired my art and had faith in me. I value the four-hour studio drawing courses the most and film history a close second. I made some nice friends while I was there. Since I live in Richmond, I go by the school a lot and can't believe how much it has changed."

David agrees. "VCU has changed the face of downtown Richmond. It's an important tool for the city and the state." He adds warmly, "It's my alma mater."



MICHAEL PRIEST



Springfield, MA. He lives in Broad Brook, CT. •

\***Tracey Halliday '93BS/MC** is manager of communications for the American Beverage Association in Washington, DC. • **Elizabeth (Hawkins) Keymont '99BS/H&S** married John Keymont on April 23, 2005. She works in pharmaceutical research. • **Scott Ian Henry '95MBA** married Katherine Gansman on July 9, 2005. He is a group manager for Capital One, and they live in Richmond. • **Rafael Hernandez '98BM** is an assistant professor of music at California State University East Bay and lives with his family in Hayward, CA. •

**Michael Hitchcock '95BS/MC** is general manager and vice president of FC Dallas, an MLS soccer team. • **Justin Honeycutt '99BS/H&S** married **Regina Clayton '00BS/B** on May 14, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Shawn Humphrey '96MA/B** is an assistant professor of economics at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. • **Merri Incitti '95MBA** is an academic advisor with Virginia State University. • **Norman Jacobs IV '94BS/B** married Kimberly Bowen on August 6, 2005. They live in Hanover, VA, where he works at Hometown Realty. •

**Darrell Jackson '94MBA** is managing director with Wachovia Securities in Richmond. • **Rajiv Jain '94MBA** works for Ernst & Young LLP and lives in Matawan, NJ. • \***Michelle Johnson '95BS/B** was elected to the board of the National Kidney Foundation of the Virginias. • **Boris Kodjoe '96BS/B** starred in tv shows *Soul Food* and *Second Time Around*. In the recent movie, "The Gospel," he played a successful pop singer who returns to family and gospel roots. Boris and his wife and frequent co-star Nicole Parker-Kodjoe have a daughter, Sophie Tei-Naaki Lee Kodjoe, born March 5, 2005. • **Robert Lanham '94BA/H&S**, editor of [www.freewilliamsburg.com](http://www.freewilliamsburg.com), wrote *The Hipster Handbook* and coined the word "deck" meaning "cool"—but "deck" no longer is—used on *The Sopranos*. • **John Land '99BS/B** married Alice Adeimy on May 14, 2005 and they live in Richmond, where he works at Weinstein Properties, Inc. • **Laura Lay '99MED** was awarded a Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award of \$25,000. She is an advanced placement world history teacher at James River HS in Chesterfield County, VA. Her students and colleagues cheered as her name was announced for the award. • **Ronald Lee '76BS/H&S '94MS/AHP** is an educational coordinator at VCU's School of Medicine. • **B.J. Losch '93MBA** is senior vice president and CFO with the Wachovia Corporation in Charlotte, NC. • **André Lucero '90BFA** had successful solo shows of his paintings last fall, in Warm Springs and at The Homestead in VA. His wife, Erin Lucero works in development at VCU's School of Medicine. •

**Yugian Mao '99MBA** is corporate affairs manager with Philip Morris Asia Limited in Hong Kong. • **E.G. Martin III '85BS '95MBA/B** is a controller with West End Orthopaedic in Richmond. • **Dr. Mayes Mathews '90Ph.D/B** is a full professor of computer information systems at Saint Leo's Langley Center in Saint Leo, FL. He is president and CEO of Lakewood

Technologies in Richmond; they live in Newport News, VA. • **Leah (DeFoggi) Ayers '01BA/A** married Walter Ayers Jr. on April 23, 2005. • **Susan (Delgado) Gunlicks '90BFA** married Lars Gunlicks on May 14, 2005. She is a commercial photographer and partner with Double Image Studio. They live in Richmond. • **Anthony Donovan '99MBA** is owner of Lighting Technology & Design in Richmond. • **Tara Donovan '99MFA** was featured in the December 2005 issue of *ARTnews*. • **Michelle (Dowdy) Honaker '92BS/H&S '97MED** married Garland Honaker Jr. on July 16, 2005. • **Martha (Eck) Ramirez '97BA/A** married John Ramirez III on December 4, 2004. They live in Manassas, VA. • **Coley Eckenrode '97BS/B** married Shannon Cubitt on April 2, 2005. They live in Midlothian, VA. • **John Elliott '90MSW** is supervisor of social work services for Chesterfield County Public Schools, where he had been the senior school social worker. • **George Ferrandi '93BFA** had a solo show last fall at Cinders gallery in

Williamsburg, NY. • **James Ferrara '93MBA** is supply chain management director with Dominion Resources in Glen Allen, VA. • **Gail Fink '92MBA** is corporate programs director for Cornell University's Johnson School in Ithaca, NY. • **Thomas Foster '94MBA** is fleet services budget manager with Overnite Transportation. • **Michael Geake '93MBA** is senior software engineer with Mobius Management Systems in Rye, NY. • **Michelle Gee '94MBA** is the Blackboard administrator for Northern VA Community College. • **William Gifford, Jr. '92BS/B** is vice president of market information for Philip Morris USA in Richmond. • \***Michelle Grabow '92MED** is a pharmaceutical representative for Abbott Laboratories in Florence, SC, where she lives with her husband Stephen and their son Thomas. • **Michael Guyer '99BFA** married Mindy Paskin on May 29, 2005. They teach at Deep Run HS and live in Richmond. • **David Hall '93BS/H&S** is director of campus recreation at Springfield College in

Trails, a property leasing company; and owner of Stonewood Stables, Inc. • **Mike McNeely '92BS '96MBA/B** is a senior financial analyst with Bon Secours Health System in Richmond.

- **Emily (McRae) Soldato '93BS/H&S** married David Soldato on October 14, 2005. They live in Chesterfield County, VA. • **Jannelle (Merritt) Pizzolla '90BFA** married John Pizzolla on April 2, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Ignacio Metcalf '99BS/H&S** married Jennifer Alverson on May 7, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Alan Middleton '93BS '93MS/B** was awarded tenure at Ohio University, where he is assistant professor of business management technology. • **Marilyn Miller '99MSW** is a detention specialist with the Department of Juvenile Justice in Richmond.
- **Robert Mills '92MBA** is vice president for Branch Bank & Trust Company, Inc. in Wilson, NC. • **Darren Morris '98MFA** won second-place in *Style Weekly's* short fiction competition in October 2005. He is a technical writer/editor in education and received a 2000 VA Fellowship in the Arts. • **Jennifer (Moss) Kincaid '98BS/H&S** married Kevin Kincaid on May 28, 2005. They live in College Park, MD. • **Dawn Oliveri '92BGS/H&S** has written several e-books published by Liquid Silver Books and Heat Wave Romance. Her nom de fire is Shara Lanel. • **Ozair Omarzai '92MBA** is vice president with JP Morgan Chase in Iselin, NJ. • **Anthony Osiol '99BFA** married Erin Osborne '99BS/H&S '04MSW on September 18, 2004. Anthony works at The Miller Group and Erin works for the VA Health Department. They live in Richmond. • **Nancy (Overbey) Sheetz '95MT** married Bryan Sheetz on March 12, 2005. They live in Chester, VA. • **Clarence Penn '91BM** plays bass on *The Rolling Stones Project* CD by saxophonist Tim Ries, and on jazz accordionist Richard Galliano's CD *Ruby, My Dear* (Dreyfus). Penn and **Steve Wilson** (sax) also toured with Grammy-winner Maria Schneider in Europe and NYC last fall. • **Diane Perkins '90MSW** won the 2003 Romance Writer's Golden Hart. She wrote two popular historical romances, *The Improper Wife* and its sequel, *The Marriage Bargain*. She and her husband live in Northern VA; they have a grown son and daughter.
- **Anne Porter '98MBA** is a manager with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.
- **Melissa Potter '92BFA** was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to lecture and research on hand papermaking at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade, Serbia in spring 2006. • **Pamela (Purks) Seay '96BS/H&S and Roy Seay '97BS '04MBA/B** were married on April 2, 2005. She is a pharmaceutical sales specialist with AstraZeneca and he is a senior financial analyst at Luck Stone. They live in Powhatan, VA. • **Sheri Reynolds '92MFA** has published three novels. *The Rapture of Canaan* was a *New York Times* bestseller and Oprah Bookclub Selection. Her first play, *Orabelle's Wheelbarrow*, was chosen by the Women Playwrights' Initiative for its annual world premiere production. • **Howard Rose '93BS '98MBA/B** is a buyer with S&K Menswear, Inc. in Glen Allen, VA. • **Stephen Ruffner '90MBA** is senior vice president with Red

Mountain Bank in Birmingham, AL. • **David Russell '90BM** has composed music for television and movies in the U.S. and Russia. He is a member of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. • **Bryan Rutter '95MBA** is a controller with Wartsila Lips, Inc. in Chesapeake, VA. • **Jonathan Selby '91MBA** is vice president of sales and marketing with Taylor Chemical Company in Lawrenceville, GA. • **Duncan Sheils '93BS/B** is a senior account executive at Delta Dental of Virginia in Glen Allen, VA. • **Carrie (Spangler) Allen '96BA/H&S '98BA/A** married Justin Allen on June 11, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Tonya (Sullivan) East '99MBA** is a product marketing manager with LogicaCMG in Glen Allen, VA. • **Tim Tatum '97MBA** is a consultant with Core Consulting in Richmond. • **Mary (Vidonic) Margaret '92BS/B** married H. Scott Margaret on March 5, 2005. She is an operations assistant at Samsung Electronics America. They live in Midlothian, VA. • \***Michael Walsh '99MBA** married Erica Mosby on July 16, 2005. • **Andrew Winn '94BM '96MM** is a classical guitarist who opened the 2005-2006 VCU Guitar Series in September. He performs, composes, and teaches in the Washington, DC area. • **Paul Woodlief '91BS '98MBA/B** is the collaboration program analyst with the Defense Supply Center in Richmond.

## 2000s

**John Alix Jr. '04BFA** premiered *The Pharaoh's Daughter* in the U.S. with the Bolshoi Ballet at the Met. • **Rosanna (Amato) Blakley '04BS/MC** married Richard Blakley Jr. on October 15, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Martina Arel '03Cert/B** works with the VA Economic Development Partnership. • **Alexia (Arnett) Gerczak '03MSW** married Gregory Gerczak on July 30, 2005. • **Jennifer (Atkinson) Perry '04MED** married Drew Perry on April 2, 2005. They live in King William, VA. • **Michael Bailey '03BS/B** is the tax compliance auditor for Chesterfield County Commissioner of

Revenue. • \***Stephanie (Baldwin) Herndon '00BS/H&S '02BS '03MS '03Cert/N** married William Herndon IV on October 15, 2005. She is a Board Certified Adult Acute Care nurse practitioner with Air Park Medical in Ashland, VA. • **Amy (Beane) Young '99BS '03Cert/B** married Thomas Young on September 24, 2005. They live in Midlothian. • \***Nancy Beasley '00MS/MC**, adjunct professor at VCU's School of Mass Communications, has written a biography, *Izzy's Fire: Finding Humanity in the Holocaust*. • **Lauren (Beatty) Bleicki '04BFA** married John Bleicki on October 15, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Boris Becker '90BS '00MBA/B** is a test pilot with the Virginia National Guard 224<sup>th</sup> Aviation in Sandston, VA. • **Kira (Bleecher) Friedel '01BS/H&S '05MD** married David Friedel on May 14, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Karen (Bradley) Roberts '93BA/H&S '03MED** married James Roberts on August 13, 2005. They live in Chesterfield, VA. • **Douglas Bradley '04BS/En** married Mary Strickland on June 4, 2005. • **Jessica (Braum) Gmelch '03BA/A** married Thomas Gmelch on October 29, 2005. • **Angela (Bryant) Taylor '05BS/H&S, MT** married Jason Taylor on June 11, 2005. They live in Ashland, VA. • \***Karen (Bush) Wright '04BS/E** married Christopher Wright on July 16, 2005. They live in Glen Allen, VA. • **Moira (Butler) Sweazey '01BS/B** married David Sweazey on October 29, 2005. • **Christina (Cangas) Kubala '02BS/B** married Alex Kubala on September 24, 2005. • **Holly (Carroll) Prestidge '00BS/MC** married Kenneth Prestidge on March 12, 2005. They live in Fredericksburg, VA. • **Douglas Clark '01MBA** is vice president for enrollment management at Ferrum College in Ferrum, VA. • **Karen (Clements) Skapin '01BA/H&S, MT** married Mark Skapin on June 21, 2005. They live in Cleveland. • **Robert Collier '04BS/H&S** married Sarah Lantz on April 9, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **John Comstock IV '04BS/B** and **Rebecca Bodde '05BA/H&S** were

## VCU Rugby Hits 20th Anniversary! April 29

On April 22, 2006, which VCU sport will be competing on the national stage for a championship? The VCU Rugby Club will carry VCU Black and Gold to its first ever East Coast Division III Championship tournament, hosted in Richmond. Rugby alumni played an integral role in bringing recognition to VCU Rugby by supporting student athletes who won key matches to play for this Championship.

VCU Rugby—started in 1974 by Terry Curtler—has maintained an active squad for over 30 years. Over a thousand VCU alumni have played for VCU RFC (Rugby Football Club). For the past 20 years the club has maintained a close-knit alumni group which meets the last weekend of April for the annual "Old Boys" Match between alumni and current students. For a 20th anniversary blast, it is the "Old Boys" wish that anyone ever associated with VCU RFC join your friends April 29th, 1 pm, at Abner Clay Park (Leigh St. Field). For more information contact Dave Franke at [david@turnkeyva.com](mailto:david@turnkeyva.com) or [www.studentorg.vcu.edu/mensrugbyvcu](http://www.studentorg.vcu.edu/mensrugbyvcu).

VCU Women's Rugby plans an "Old Girls" match before the men's on April 29, noon. This year the women's team made it to the Mid-Atlantic Rugby Football Union (MARFU) tournament, which can ultimately lead to the U.S. finals. They played another tournament at the University of Richmond in February. Contact Cabell Layne at [taxicab53@yahoo.com](mailto:taxicab53@yahoo.com).



# Lost in Translation

I knew I was in a special place when my grammar and pronunciation were corrected by strangers four times within 24 hours—once by a drunken college student on his way home at 1 a.m.; once by a sandpaper-voiced flamenco singer after his 20th cigarette; and twice by a bartender in a bus station. (Yes, bartender. In a bus station). A licensed member of the grammar police myself, I was in awe that I was corrected with such grace and aplomb. Instead of feeling embarrassed or stupid about my clumsy language skills, I actually felt grateful for these strangers' insight, wisdom, and apparent interest that I speak the best Spanish I possibly could.

I was in Spain for ten days, consciously studying flamenco, and unconsciously absorbing the directness, honesty, and charm of the Andalucian character. Someone was always ready to dispense correct word choice or give mini-lectures about the accusative declension of objects of prepositions to another who clearly needs it. I was hopeful that not only would I return to Virginia a better dancer, but also a person who could lightly correct her peers' egregious misuse of apostrophes—and leave them wanting more.

Andalucia was a lot of what I expected and nothing like I imagined. My only previous contact with Spain was through my flamenco teacher in Virginia Beach, Gloria de Jerez, an internationally renowned flamenco artist unlike anyone I have ever known, or, I suspect, will know. Barely 5'2" with long auburn hair, an hour-glass shape, and a fierce flamenco stare, Gloria demands attention with her quick smile, dry sense of humor, genuine compassion and unadulterated honesty.

My monthly two-hour classes with her were peppered with such gems as "Lolita, that was HORREEEEBLE!" or "Lola, do you need glasses? Because you obviously can't see a thing I'm doing!" Gloria would deliver these criticisms with such charm and matter-of-factness that I eventually viewed them as badges of honor. When she did dole out a compliment, I always knew it was genuine. Even though I was paying her \$60 an hour, she never felt obliged to build me up more than I deserved. I would leave her lessons exhausted and pummeled, but always looking forward to next month.

One of only a handful of flamenco masters teaching in the United States, Gloria moved back to Spain last winter, and I was left teacherless and heartbroken. After a month of *dolores*, I knew I had to go see her. So, for ten days last May, I stayed with Gloria in Jerez de la Frontera, the birthplace of flamenco.



BY LAUREL HAYWARD '01 M.A./A



Having studied flamenco for only three years, I was ready to absorb as much as I could, happy at last to hear people say "flamenco" instead of "flamingo." I arrived in Jerez just in time for the annual *Feria de Caballo*, a week-long party of non-stop dancing, drinking, and heavy preening, attended by gentry, gypsies and workers alike.

My days in Jerez consisted of sightseeing in the morning, a three-hour lesson every day with Gloria, and dancing at the feria every night. Andalucians take their festivals and their sherry very seriously, with most people stumbling home from the evening's debauchery around 4 a.m. While I couldn't quite keep up with the natives, I did manage not to embarrass myself or my country with my dancing and basic grasp of complex flamenco rhythm.

Of course I was not spared Gloria's usual honesty and directness during my three hour sessions—"Do you know what you are doing? Because I don't think you do!" and my new personal favorite, "Yes Lola, you were *en compas*, but ONLY BY A MIRACLE!" Gloria demands a lot of her students and is able to get the best out of them by making them love her. She may tell you that you dance like an elephant, but it is always with a wink and a promise of olives and homemade gazpacho after class.

After I spent a week and a half there communicating only in my elementary Spanish, Jerez de la Frontera proved just as effective in honing my language skills as my dancing prowess. I left Spain with both a better understanding of *Bulerias compas* and a slightly identifiable "Andaluthian" accent.

But dancing and the finer points of verb usage were not the only things I learned in Spain. I learned that bull fighting is the most extraordinary spectacle I have ever seen; that Philip Morris would do just fine if its only market were Andalucía; and that Americans, in addition to not knowing how to have a seriously good time, avoid honesty at all costs for fear of offending anyone. As a result, compliments are meaningless, and we have begun to view any type of criticism as a personal attack.

On the journey home, I tried to think of ways to incorporate this refreshing Andalucian frankness into my daily life. Could I get away with telling my co-worker that the bathroom was not an appropriate place for the New Testament? That the housekeepers weren't always overjoyed to hear about the kooky weekend antics of her Tibetan Terriers? Could I correct my father when he fails to put the right indefinite article in front of his noun? Did I have the guts to tell my husband that I preferred extra creamy milk chocolate with toffee bits instead of the regular chocolate with almonds he bought me at 7-11? Could I tell the manager at my favorite restaurant that the plural of "hamburger" is not "hamburger's" as it reads on all of his menus? And if I did all of these things, could I do it with that Spanish *mezcla* of charm, directness, and grace? Frankly, I don't dare try; it's not in my blood.

By studying flamenco in its very cradle, I finally see that it is an expression of the Andalucian character itself – bold, brutal, passionate, tender, heartbroken, and at times, hilarious. The two are inseparable. I could no sooner correct my colleague's grammar in Richmond, Virginia and expect to be loved in return, than Gloria de Jerez could demand a non-smoking booth in a restaurant in Madrid. Both actions are embedded in culture. Either would be lost in translation.

*When not stamping and glaring, Laurel Hayward is Director of Donor Relations and Stewardship at the University of Richmond.*

married on November 5, 2005. • **Robert Cottrell**

'01BS/H&S'02MED is a coordinator of

supplemental instruction at VCU. • **Lauren**

**(Courain) Luke** '02MT married Franklin

Luke Jr. on April 30, 2005. She is a

school librarian. • **Joshua**

**Cruciotti** '03BA/H&S married

Juli Allen on October 8, 2005. •

**Colleen Curran's** '01MFA/H&S

novel, *Whores on the Hill*, was

published by Vintage in 2005. •

**Amy (Deeth) Pozza** '00BS-B

married Mark Pozza on May 14, 2005.

They live in Sykesville, MD. • **Amanda**

**(Daniels) Chenault** '05BS/H&S

married Joseph Chenault, III on July 16, 2005. They live in Midlothian, VA.

• **Katherine Dorsk** '04BS-E is a client services coordinator at Southwest Transplant Alliance in Dallas, TX where she lives. • **William Duke Jr.**

'03BS/H&S and **Sarah Davis** '04BFA

were married on June 18, 2005. He is a police officer in Henrico County where they live. • **\*Brian Ellenger** '02Cert/B married

Lauren Campbell on April 24, 2005. Brian works for Euro RSCG, and they live in Suffolk, VA. • **Eric Faithzik** '03MS/B is IT project manager for AutoTrader.com in Atlanta. • **Grace (Ferguson)**

**Olsen** '03MS/En married Andrew Olsen on May

14, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Robert**

**Ferguson** '03MBA is a development officer with the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. • **Curtis Fye** '02BM (bass) and **Robbie Sinclair** '02BM (drums), play with Sam Wilson and Wells Hanley on the debut CD, *Wells*, "a combination of pop appeal and multilayered angularity." —*StyleWeekly*.

**Ashley (Gardner) Gallienne** '01MT married Charles Gallienne on February 26, 2005. •

**Heather (Garrett) Gifford** '00BS/B

**H&S, MT** married John Gifford on June 25, 2005. They live in Richmond. •

**Michael Gasper** '03MSW is a foster care social worker for the City of

Richmond Department of Social Services.

• **Kristina Gatti** '00MBA is a business systems analyst with Carl Zeiss Vision, LLC in Chester, VA.

• **Greg Giese** '02MBA is a project manager with IntelliMark IT Business in Texas. • **Charles Gray Jr.** '02PhD/H&S married **Frances Ryan** '96BS/H&S'99MED on August 6, 2005. He is a regulatory review chemist with the Food and Drug

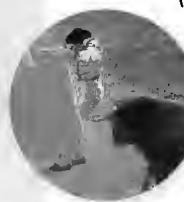
Administration. Frances is a school counselor for Chesterfield County Public Schools. They live in Richmond. • **Yvette (Gray) Coates** '04BS/B

married Koyar Coates on August 13, 2005. She is a human resources manager. • **Jonathan Gregori** '04BFA married Annette Sheil on July 9, 2005. He works at Henrico County Public Schools, and they live in Midlothian, VA. • **Arness Harris** '01MBA

is a contract specialist in Washington, DC. • **Tara (Haymore) Polhamus** '01MSW married William Polhamus on April 30, 2005. They live in Richmond, and Tara is a social worker in Chesterfield County Public Schools. • **Raleigh Hobson III** '01BS/H&S

married Tammy Smith on July 9, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Christophe Hodgdon** '05PhD/B, received the 2005 Outstanding Dissertation Award in International Accounting presented

annually by the American Accounting



Association. for "Empirical Examination of the Effect of Firm Compliance with the Disclosure Requirements of International Accounting Standards on the Characteristics of Analysts' Earnings Forecasts." Past recipients were from universities in the U.S., Australia, Canada, and Sweden. • **Andrea (Holland) Holmes '01BS/B** married James Holmes Jr. on September 10, 2005. She is an analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. • **Richard Huffman Jr. '00MBA** is a vice president with The McCammon Group in Richmond. • **Christopher Jones '01BS/En** is a product engineer with Infinion Technologies in Richmond. He is also a VCU School of Engineering Alumni board member. • **Emily (Jones) Rosson '01BSW '04MSW** married Wesley Rosson on May 7, 2005. They live in Glen Allen, VA. Emily works at Rappahannock Area Community Services Board and provides mental health services to Rappahannock Regional Jail. • **Laura (Keim) Burnetter '02BS/B** married Marcus Burnetter on June 19, 2005. • **Shameer Khanal '02BS/B '04MBA** is a sub-sector advisor at German Technical Corporation in Nepal. • **Edward Lahmann '04MS/MC** married Sara Cameron on September 4, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Will Lawrence '03BS/En** works at L.S. Technologies LLC in Washington, DC. • **William Longest '01BS/B** married Tiffany Wolfrey on May 14, 2005. He works for Cintas, and they live in Tappahannock, VA. • **Laura (Manley) Moore '03BS/E** married William Moore on November 5, 2005. She is a teacher at the Creative Learning Center and a three-sport coach at Collegiate School. • **Emanuel Mathis '02BS/E** is director of business operations at Better Basketball Inc. in Marietta, GA. He lives in Atlanta. • **Lori (McCreight) Kreckman '02BS/H&S** married Brian Kreckman on July 16, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Timothy McGee '01MBA** is a senior business analyst with Bank of America in Richmond. • **Jana McQuaid '02MBA** is graduate studies director at VCU's School of Business. • **Meredith (Meger) Ramsey '04Cert/B** married Robert Ramsey on April 30, 2005. They live in Arlington, VA. • **Mary Milks '00BS/B** is a project manager with Health Net Federal Services in Arlington, VA. • **Crystal (Miller) Johnson '04MBA** married Thomas Johnson Jr. on July 9, 2005. They live in

**Spring Networking Reception for LGBT Alumni and Friends**  
Meet other interesting VCU alumni who share some of your experiences and concerns at the kickoff reception for the new LGBT Alumni Chapter of VCU (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender). Babe's of Carytown will serve up hearty hors d'oeuvres to fuel the talk. Hosted by LGBT Alumni Chapter of VCU, the VCU Alumni Association and VCU Office of Alumni Activities. April 27, 6-8:30 pm, 3166 West Cary Street. \$10 admission, cash bar for beer and wine. Register at [www.vcu-mcvalumi.org](http://www.vcu-mcvalumi.org), call 804-828-2586. Walk-in registration at the event is also permitted.

Richmond. • **Kara (Mills) Greenwood '02BA/ H&S '04MT** married Alan Greenwood on August 20, 2005. They live in Glen Allen, VA. • **William Moffett '03BS/H&S and Erin Hobgood '02BS/N** were married on February 26, 2005. They live in Midlothian, VA. • **Jason Murray '05BA/H&S** married Morgan Meeker on June 25, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **\*MaiHuong Nguyen '98BS/H&S '02MBA** is program coordinator for ADAC International in Gaithersburg, MD. • **Latrena Owens '96BS/B '04MED** ran the Honolulu Marathon on December 10, 2005, her first 26k, with the AIDS Marathon DC group to raise money for AIDS research. • **Leigh (Nowicki) Sewell '00MSW** married Dr. Nathan Sewell on May 28, 2005. • **Marjorie (Pace) Barbour '04BSW** married William Barbour on June 25, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Nicholaus Panos '02BM** married Ilze Kalnina on September 24, 2005. They live in Florida. • **Jeannette (Pugh) Mock '02MS/H&S** married Walter Mock III on August 27, 2005. She is assistant director of alumni for Randolph-Macon College, and they live in Richmond. • **Arun Rajagopal '03MBA** is first vice president with SunTrust Bank in Richmond. • **Scott Recher II '00Cert/B** married Michelle Brooks on May 28, 2005. He is serving in the U.S. Navy, stationed in Norfolk, VA. • **Frederic Reed Jr. '05MBA** married Anna Witt on June 18, 2005. • **Blake Reid '00MT** married Heather Yoxall on March 26, 2005. Both are teachers for Henrico County, VA. They live in Richmond. • **Craig Richardson '02MBA** is a settlement agent with Commonwealth Guarantee, Inc. in Richmond. • **Matthew Riffe '02BS/B** married Lindi Sheppard on September 24, 2005. They live in Virginia Beach. • **Erin Roe '00BS/E** is a business systems analyst with Capital One in Glen Allen, VA. • **Jason Roe '00BS/E** is a reliability engineer with Infineon Technologies in Sandston, VA. • **Harry Rowan III '00MBA** married **Renea Lunde '05MHA** on June 11, 2005. The couple resides in Falls Church, VA. • **Ward Saunders '92 '03BFA** married **Debra Rice '03BFA** on June 25, 2005. They teach graphic arts: Ward at Patrick Henry HS in Ashland, VA and Debra at Hanover HS in Mechanicsville, VA, where they live. • **Rachel (Savage) Loving '02MED** married Joshua Loving on October 8, 2005. She is a guidance director at Caroline HS in Virginia. They live in Richmond. • **Michelle Schlagler '00MBA** is a senior credit analyst at Dominion Resources in Richmond. • **Rebecca Schmidt '01BS/En** is a weapons systems engineer for Technology Service Corporation in Silver Spring, MD. • **Michael Schultheis '05BS/H&S** married Kristen Fus on October 15, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Diane Seaborn '02BS/B** is legislative information systems supervisor with the General Assembly of VA. • **Thomas Seay '03MS/E** is a volunteer assistant baseball coach at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. • **David Sena '00BS/En** is a digital design engineer for ITT Industries in Ashburn, VA. • **Shahab Siddiqui '00BS/En** is a research and development engineer for IBM corporation in New York, where he lives. • **Brandon Smith '01BS/H&S** married Jacqueline Carmine on April 23, 2005. • **Matthew Spradlin '03BS/B and Elizabeth Turner '04BS/H&S, MT** were married on July 9, 2005. He is a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch and she is a teacher with Hanover County Schools. They live in Midlothian, VA. • **Matthew Stanton '00BFA** married Sarah Butts on May 21, 2005. • **Jonnie Stone '91BS/B '00MS/E** is a research systems manager at Royall & Company in Richmond, where she lives. • **Robbie Taylore '02BS/B** is a real estate appraiser for Henrico County, VA. • **Cara (Thorpe) Dillard '02MED** married Charles Dillard on September 10, 2005. • **Melissa (Timberlake) Wright '00BS/B** married Nathaniel Wright on November 6, 2004. They live in New Kent, VA. • **Amanda (Toler) Proost '02BS/H&S** married Christopher Proost on June 11, 2005. They live in Mechanicsville, VA. • **(Jason) Shayne Townsend '03MURP**, after two years in Bolivia with the Peace Corps, is working for Save the Children. He is now in Louisiana reviewing the welfare of children displaced by Katrina. • **Heide Trepianer '00MFA** teaches art foundations and in VCU's Department of Painting and Printmaking. She is co-founder/director of Richmond's Orange Door Gallery. • **\*Clare Trow '02MED** is a senior counselor at Maggie Walker Governor's School in Richmond, where she lives. • **Anna (Tulou) Snyder '01BFA** married Robert Snyder on May 7, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Jason Van Gumster '04BFA** is a partner with Hand Turkey Studios in Mechanicsville, VA, a media production company specializing in animation, video production, and print design. • **Genevieve Verlakk '04MBA** owns Architectural Design in Richmond. • **Scotty Walker '03, '04BS/H&S** married Jennifer Akins on August 6, 2005. Scotty works for Philip Morris USA, and they live in New Kent, VA. • **Hunter Wallace III '04BS/H&S and Tammy Wells '03BS/H&S** were married on June 25, 2005. • **Octavia Ware '00BSW, '03MSW** is an organizer with the Virginia Organizing Project in Richmond. • **Christopher Wash '04BS/En** is a consultant with CapTech Ventures, Inc. in Richmond. • **Tonya Washington '00BS/E** is a customer care coordinator with Infilco Degremont in Richmond. • **\*Cherry Watson '00MSW** is an adult stabilization social worker for Richmond's Department of Social Services. • **Ashley (Weinz) Tucker '04BS/B** married Kevin Tucker II on July 2, 2005. She works for Appomattox Title Company. • **Ba-Shen Welch '03PhD/H&S** was honored in *Ebony Magazine* as one of "30 Leaders of the Future." She is a government and history programs professor at Campbell University and co-founder of Mentorship in Marriage. • **Leigh (Werkmeister) Withrow '00BFA** married Army Capt. Ryan Withrow on March 19, 2005. She is an art teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools. • **Keri-Anne (West) Harrison '01BS/H&S** married Daniel Harrison on September 5, 2005. They live on their farm in Wendell, N.C. • **Stacie (White) Johnson '03BS/H&S** married Kevin Johnson on July 16, 2005. They live in New Kent, VA. • **Michael Whitman '01BS/En** is employed with IBS as a customer support

# Calendar 2006

## VCU Alumni Association

March 31–April 2

14th Annual VCU French Film Festival  
[www.frenchfilm.vcu.edu](http://www.frenchfilm.vcu.edu)

April 4, 5:30–7 pm

School of Business Alumni  
 Spring Networking Reception  
 VCU Student Commons

April 4, 5:30–7 pm

Non-Traditional Studies Alumni Recruitment  
 Richard T. Robertson Alumni House

April 7, 5:30–9:30 pm

VCU Music at the Kennedy Center  
 Hosted by DC-Metro Chapter  
 \$30 per person

April 10, 8 pm

VCU Music-SOth Madrigalists Reunion  
 Concert and Reception  
 Singleton Center

April 19, 6–8 pm

Presidential, Provost & Deans' Scholars Reception  
 Provost Dr. Stephen Gottfredson  
 Scott House

April 20

School of Engineering Alumni Mixer

April 22

Destination Imagination

April 27, 6–8:30 pm

LGBT Alumni Chapter of VCU  
 (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender)  
 Spring Networking Reception  
 Babe's of Carytown, Richmond, VA  
 \$10 per person

April 28–30

Reunion Weekend  
 All RPI Alumni and  
 African-American Alumni

April 29, noon, 1 pm

VCU Rugby 20th Anniversary Reunion Games  
 "Old Boys/Girls" v. Students  
 Abner Clay Park, Clay Street Field

May 8–17

Andalucia, Spain  
 Alumni Campus Abroad

May 20

VCU Commencement  
 Commencement Breakfast

School of Engineering Class '01  
 5-year Reunion

June

Hampton Roads Chapter Reception

June 6–14, 13–21, 20–28, July 4–12, 11–19  
 Switzerland, 7 Days, Traveler's Choice

October 13–15

VCU Fest!!  
 Celebration on Campus!!!

October 14

VCU Family Day

October 8–16

Chianti, Italy  
 Alumni Campus Abroad

December 11–19

Holiday Markets of Vienna & Salzburg

Visit the alumni website for details: [www.vcu-mcalumni.org](http://www.vcu-mcalumni.org)

technician. He and his wife live in Richmond. • **Mark Williams '03MA/H&S** married Michelle Harris Johnson on July 27, 2005. They live in Richmond. • **Nelvie (Yu) Hansel '02BS/H&S** married Gunnar Hansel on May 21, 2005. She is a teacher and lives in Berlin, Germany.

## Obituaries

### 1940s

• **E. Reid Limerick '49BS/E** on November 15, 2005, at 81. • **Jeanne Mangano '48Arts** on November 16, 2005, at 78. • **Margaret Worsham '49BFA** on October 26, 2005, at 89. She was a librarian for the Richmond Public Library 1964–81.

### 1950s

• **Richard Beaty '56BFA** on February 25, 2005, at 76. He was a lifelong actor, performing in over 50 plays and directing over a dozen. • **Marilyn Bevilacqua '50BFA** on June 2, 2005, at 76. She taught fine arts in several public school systems and universities, including VCU, until her retirement in 1986. • **Frances Blankenship '50BS** on July 31, 2005, at 75. She was a special education teacher at the Cerebral Palsy Center and in Richmond Public Schools. • **Edgar Butler '58BS/B** on September 16, 2005, at 75. He was manager of Surplus Property for VCU/MCV until his retirement. • **Frances Darden '52BME** on October 8, 2005. She taught music in several Virginia public school systems and directed church choirs. She performed in the first two operas produced at Richmond Professional Institute under L. Wayne Batty. • **Betty Eborn '50BS/H&S** on March 23, 2005, at 77. She was an elementary school teacher for over 30 years. • **Virginia Finlayson '58BS/H&S** on July 17, 2005. • **Allen "Monk" Clyde Hall '58BS/B** on November 22, 2005, at 73, in Baton Rouge, LA. • **Eleanor Hoffer '54BFA** on August 17, 2005, at 89. She taught in Richmond Public Schools. • **Barbara Ann Kelley '50BS/B** on February 1, 2006, in Richmond, at 75. She worked for both the FBI and Experiment Incorporate before a long career at Reynolds Metals, where she became Corporate Secretary. In retirement, she worked in the Senate Clerk's Office for the VA General Assembly. • **Paul Kersey, Jr. '56BS/MC** on September 9, 2005, at 75. • **Joseph Klass '51BM '54MS/H&S** on February 26, 2005. He was a member of the American Psychological Association and the Biofeedback Society of Michigan. • **Ralph Lewis '57BS/B** on February 12, 2005, at 75. He was founder and owner of American Seamless Floors, Inc. and a member of the South Richmond Rotary Club. • **Charles Mahon '54BS/MC** on July 14, 2005, at 72. He was editor of *The Catholic Virginian* for 38 years. In 2003, he received a Benemerenti Medal in honor of his dedication to the church from Pope John Paul II. • **Gerald Marple '52BS/MC** on March 6, 2005, at 75. He was a part of the advertising staff at The Daily Press, Inc. for 38 years. • **Roy Morris '50BFA** on March 31, 2005, at 76. He was a teacher in Franklin County, VA Public Schools for 35 years. • **Donald Murrill '51BM** on October 6, 2005, at 85. • **John Perkins**

'50MME on August 7, 2005, at 86. He taught music in Henrico, Goochland, and Powhatan County Schools in Virginia. • **Mildred Pitts '50BM** on November 3, 2005, at 84. • **Thomas Rice Jr. '50BS/B** on March 5, 2005, at 84. • **Robert Rogers '50BS/E** on February 26, 2005, at 79. • **Dorothy May Sutton '50BS/B** on January 25, 2006. • **Barbara Sant '57BFA** on November 29, 2005, at 70. She taught art in many elementary schools and continued her study of the arts. • **Betsy Sgarro '57BFA** on February 6, 2005.

### 1960s

• **Pamela Castillo '69BS/E** on August 31, 2005, at 58. • **Norman DeHart '65BFA** on May 7, 2005, at 67. He was an outstanding artist with works displayed in many Virginia art galleries and museums. • **Barry Gholson '68BS/B** on August 28, 2005, at 59. • **Ruth Grizzard '63BS/H&S** on February 14, 2005, at 83. She was a member of many civic organizations and organized the first polio immunization for the city of Petersburg, VA in 1963. • **Charlie Heath '65BS/B** on May 18, 2005, at 64. • **Ronald Knakal '64BS/B** on October 26, 2005, at 63. He worked for the VA Department of Transportation for 31 years, until his retirement in 1995. • **Ronald Livingston '62BS/B** on April 19, 2005, at 67. He was a member of the Florida and Virginia Societies of CPA's. • **Joan McMillan '66BS/H&S** on April 7, 2005, at 74. • **Francis Meeler Sr. '65BS/B** on March 22, 2005, at 64. • **Gordon Muse '63BS/B** on April 5, 2005, at 66. He was president of Muse Buick. • **Frank Nalls Jr. '68BS/B** on May 29, 2005, at 59. • **Reginald Stanfield '63BS/B** on April 5, 2005, at 69. He was president of Stanfield & Associates, Inc., established in 1974. • **Elizabeth Wilson '65BSW** on November 11, 2005, at 91. She taught in Hanover County, VA Schools until she retired. She was also superintendent of arts and crafts for the State Fair of Virginia. • **Laura Woehr '66BSW** on March 31, 2005, at 89. She taught for Hopewell, VA Public Schools for almost 40 years. • **Wayne Wolfe Sr. '68BS/MC** on April 17, 2005, at 60. He served in the Virginia state government for over 30 years. • **Linda Wooldridge '64BS/H&S** on March 24, 2005, at 63. She had a successful career in data systems analysis with several leading retailers.

### 1970s

• **John Banks, Jr. '73MS/B** on June 3, 2005, at 81. He was a retired director of Legislative Services for the Commonwealth of Virginia. • **Robert Brasington '77BS/B** on January 20, 2006. • **Stephen Brewer '75BA/H&S** on October 14, 2005, at 52. He worked for over 20 years for the VA Department of Transportation in Security and Emergency Management. • **Robert Brockwell '74BS/B** on September 16, 2005, at 54. • **William Brough '77BS/B** on March 27, 2005, at 60. He was a charter member and treasurer of the Virginia Motorcycle Association and a dedicated VCU Rams basketball fan. • **Warren Campbell '77MED** on January 23, 2005, at 84. He served 25 years in the U.S. Army Air Corps, rising to the rank of full colonel. He was a member of

# In Memoriam

## Illuminating

Richard Carlyon '53BFA '63MFA, professor emeritus in the School of the Arts, taught brilliantly and compellingly, by word and example, for more than forty years at RPI/VCU, 1955-96. At Winter Commencement December 10, VCU, still dazzled, awarded him the Presidential Medallion, its highest honor. Carlyon died January 20, 2006, after a long fight against cancer.

Carlyon's ability to mesmerize his students was legendary. He taught commercial art and dance—he had studied with Martha Graham—painting, drawing, art history, graphic design, and sculpture at RPI and VCU. Students filled his classrooms—all the seats, the floor space—to hear his lectures about art and artists. "No one else has impacted like him," choreographer and former dance department chair Chris Burnside '69BFA told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. "Generation after generation would agree he was the most inspiring teacher they ever had." In 1993 he received the Distinguished Teaching of Art Award from the College Art Association.

Carlyon was an accomplished and engaged artist who kept his work fresh. "Everything he did was surprising and interesting," said Joe Seipel, associate dean of the School of the Arts. Carlyon exhibited his work at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Studio Gallery in Washington, D.C. and the Fleischmann Gallery in New York City. He received the Theresa Pollak Prize for Excellence in the Arts in 2001.

Even after cancer treatments slowed him down, art remained an essential force in his life. The Reynolds Gallery held a retrospective show in November-December, and he hoped to return to his work. "Those who have been touched by (art) in some way, whether it's making things or thinking about things, or the way they interact with people, they're forever changed," Carlyon told the *Times-Dispatch* in December.

*Memorial donations may be sent to the Richard Carlyon Student Research Fund; c/o VCU Sculpture Department; 1000 West Broad Street; PO Box 843005; Richmond, VA 23284-3005 or to Massey Cancer Center of VCU; 401 College Street; PO Box 980037; Richmond, VA 23298-0037.*

## "A Great Leader of Young Men"

Ed Allen, a former coach and athletic director at RPI and VCU, died in Southport, N.C. on May 7, 2005 at 83. Allen served as basketball coach from 1950-67, as baseball coach from 1950-75 and as athletic director from 1950-67. He retired from VCU in 1984.

Ed Peebles '57BS/E told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* that Allen "was a great leader of young men." Although Peebles and several others on the team were veterans of the Korean War, they still learned a great deal about being an adult from Allen. "He had a lot of influence on me," Peebles said.

Team members and fans felt a strong affection and respect for Allen, and in 1956 the RPI Alumni Association gave him its first Alumni Award. Len Creech played under Allen for three seasons and also spoke with the *Times-Dispatch*. Allen knew his players well; he was close to them. He "would do just about anything for a player," Creech said. Although there were no scholarships—even for Creech, who scored a school record 2,019 points in his career—he recalled that "Ed Allen somehow or the other got me through college. He was just a gentleman in all respects."

Allen was one of the first inductees into VCU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989.



ALLEN JONES '82BFA '92MFA VCU CREATIVE SERVICES

## Saving Kids in Trouble

Gilbert Garner Cumbia '76MED died of cancer on May 9, 2005 at age 54. Cumbia taught psychology and sociology at Hermitage High School. He wrote the initial in-school suspension program implemented there in 1976, and currently used in all Henrico County secondary schools. "He saw kids getting in trouble and being suspended out of school. He felt the kids needed to work through what was bothering them," his wife, Susan Schlegel Cumbia, told the *Richmond-Times Dispatch*.

Cumbia was also a guidance counselor, an intervention coordinator, and provided court-ordered group psychotherapy-education to adolescents and their parents.

## "An Incredibly Positive Influence"

The deaths of Bryan Harvey '80BS/H&S and Kathryn Grabiner Harvey '89BFA and their daughters, Ruby, 4 and Stella, 9, on New Year's Day, were a tragic loss to the Richmond and VCU communities.

Bryan Harvey was a musician and played in local soul-dance band NrG Krysys. His day job was in technology for Henrico County Schools. Kathryn Harvey was co-owner and artistic director of World of Mirth, a popular retro-gift store in the Carytown section of Richmond. Their daughters had the creative and generous spirit of their parents.

"They were just wonderful people," Chuck Wrenn '71BFA, a longtime friend of the family, told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. "They contributed a great deal to the community. They contributed a great deal to Richmond, and through [Bryan's] music. They were just an incredibly positive influence."

Bryan and his friend Johnny Hott '84BS/H&S made up the critically acclaimed band House of Freaks, which released five albums from 1985 to 1995. After the deaths, the *Los Angeles Times* ran an article noting that Harvey and Hott had been "a memorable presence" in L.A. music in the mid-1980s. "The little time that they were playing in L.A. they sold out wherever they played, and they became so hot so fast," club manager Debbie Drooz told the Times. "And there was a reason for that. They were fabulous, and they didn't sound like anybody else."

More than 1,400 people attended a memorial service for the Harveys at the Byrd Theater on January 6. Information about memorial contributions at [www.tcfrichmond.org](http://www.tcfrichmond.org) or 804-330-7400.

## Generous and Multifaceted

William Carreras of cancer, at home in Richmond on January 15, 2006. He was 61. With his wife, Rejena Carreras '70BFA '80MFA, he helped lead VCU's Partners for Progress Campaign in the 1990s, and continued to support the arts and VCU. Owner of Carreras, Ltd., he was as brilliant in his trade as his own diamonds. DeBeers consulted him in the 1980s about marketing diamonds in North America, and named him one of 10 "Diamond People" in the world. His ready humor "made working with him a wacky and wonderful joy," said Jo Kennedy, director of Richmond's Visual Arts Center.

## "A Brilliant Mind and a Noble Heart"

Dr. Elizabeth Ann Fries, an associate professor psychology at VCU and co-director of cancer control research for the VCU Massey Cancer Center, died May 20, 2005 at the VCU Medical Center, of complications after treatment for breast cancer. She was 42.

Fries, director of research for the VCU Women's Health Center, focused her work on reducing cancer-causing behav-

the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers and composed more than 30 original pieces of music. • **Raymond Cienek Jr.** '79MED on May 8, 2005, at 56. He was president of RPC Associates, Inc. in Greensboro, NC. • **Natalie Daley** '76MSW on February 27, 2005, at 52. She was a professional social worker in mental and home health care. • **Arthur Deal Jr.** '72BS/B on April 8, 2005, at 83. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and served on the Colonial Heights, VA School Board. • **Angela DiSorbo** '77MSW on April 12, 2005, at 53. She spent almost her entire life in New York, working in and loving the city. • **Rev. W.D. Drake** '73MSW on February 13, 2005. He served more than 30 years in the U.S. Navy, rising to the rank of master chief. He was pastor for St. Luke AME Zion Church in Franklin, VA, for four and a half years. • **Bonnie Fahy** '72MED on February 27, 2005, at 59. • **Jean Fields** '44BSW '77MED on November 3, 2005, at 82. She was a special education elementary school teacher for over 25 years. • **Ruth Gayles** '71MED on August 14, 2005, at 85. • **Timothy Hanna** '75BS/H&S on June 7, 2005, at 54. He was a facilities architect for

the U.S. Army for 16 years. He was also a flight instructor, woodworker, and landscaper. • **Dr. Zeola Heller** '75MED on September 25, 2005. • **Garna Blakey Kraft** '70MED, January 25, 2006. She taught in Charlottesville and in Richmond middle and high schools, receiving a Fulbright in summer 1964 to study in Japan. She became a counselor at Mosby Middle School in Richmond after earning her MED at VCU. She and her husband, **Ted Kraft** '51BS/E, traveled widely in Europe, Africa and Asia. • **David Larrabee** '73BFA on May 10, 2005, at 55. • **Kent Massey** '74BS/E on March 20, 2005. He was co-owner of the former Edgeworth-Massey Oriental Rugs and co-owner in the real estate investment firm, Buckeye Enterprises. • **Nancy McCambridge** '71BS/H&S on January 13, 2005, at 55. She was a special education teacher in Prince George County, VA. • **Deborah Parrish** '76BS/B on February 9, 2005, at 53. • **Rev. Albert Rice, III** '78MS/H&S on September 24, 2005, at 69. • **Jim Rooney** '70BS/B on October 10, 2005, at 60. He retired in January 2005 after 31 years in the City of Richmond's Department of Social Services. He and his wife, **Marilyn Cox**

**Rooney** '72BA/H&S '93BS/D were married for 30 years. • **Virginia Rowe** '70BS/E on October 28, 2005, at 87. She was president of IndMar Coatings Corporation in Wakefield, VA. She co-wrote the book, *The Supreme Sacrifice*, and wrote *A Brief History of Sussex County*. • **Marsha Scott** '68BS/B '71MED on July 13, 2005. She was a marketing education and driver's education teacher with Richmond Public Schools for 30 years. • **Robert Stambach** '66BM '71MME on December 7, 2005. He taught at J.R. Tucker HS in Richmond and Lake Braddock Secondary School in Burke, VA. • **Craig Thompson** '78BS/MC on May 9, 2005, at 50. He was a marketing executive for Target Marketing. • **Linda Tracey** '73As/En on March 19, 2005, at 51. She was devoted to her hobbies, including hiking and camping. • **Richard Venable** '71MS/E on March 17, 2005, at 71. He worked in education after his retirement from service in the U.S. Air Force. • **Joseph West Jr.** '76BS/B on May 30, 2005, at 51. He was the assistant director of engineering and building at the Virginia Department of General Services. • **Jack Wheeler, Sr.** '73BS/B in November 2004. • **Alfred Wood** '72BS/B

iors, like tobacco use and poor diet, among people at risk for cancer. She led a statewide study to evaluate programs aimed to discourage tobacco use among children.

Liz had quickly established herself as a nationally respected cancer control researcher, VCU colleague Dr. Steven Danish told the Richmond Times-Dispatch. "On campus," he said, "her love for her work and the knowledge she shared had a positive ripple effect among her students and colleagues."

"Liz raised the bar for cancer control research at VCU," added Massey's director, Dr. Gordon Ginder. "She tackled big issues with a brilliant mind and a noble heart."

VCU has established the Elizabeth A. Fries Memorial Scholarship Fund for graduate students in psychology pursuing cancer control research. VCU Foundation, P.O. Box 843042, Richmond, VA 23284-3042. Or contact Shirley McDaniel at 804-827-0867 [srmcdani@vcu.edu](mailto:srmcdani@vcu.edu).

### **Richmond Printmaker**

Nancy Shutter David '71BFA, a moving spirit in the Richmond arts scene, died July 7, 2005, at 80. David encouraged many artists through the Richmond Printmaking Workshop, which she owned until it closed in 1993.

Former workshop director Mary Holland told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* that David "fell in love with printmaking" when "she went back to school [at VCU] in her 40s with three kids." David exhibited in juried shows in Virginia and internationally from Italy to Peru. She was a member of the One/Off professional printmakers group and helped establish a Print Club to educate the public on printmaking techniques.

### **Dual Career**

Carl Daniel Larsen '72BS/H&S died on August 12, 2005 in Reedville, VA, at 56. He was warden of Lunenburg Correctional Center from 1995 until he retired in May 2002. In 31 years in the VA Department of Corrections, he was also assistant warden of the VA State Penitentiary, superintendent of New Kent Correctional, and senior warden at Greenville Correctional. In retirement, Larsen pursued a second career as a professional watercolor artist, teacher, and creator of Larsen's Fine Art Ltd. "Snow People," his signature watercolor collection, was a collabora-

tive trilogy with Francis Wood. He was past president of the Lunenburg Rotary Club and was on the Kenbridge Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

### **A Trusted Friend and Consummate Professional**

Dorothy Marks Hardy '56Cert '74BFA/A died peacefully Sept. 15, 2005, after surviving cancer for 16 years. She graduated from RPI in interior design, and later taught in that department for 25 years. Hardy was active internationally through the Interior Design Educator's Council and served on the board of the National Council of Interior Design, responsible for professional certification of designers in Canada and the U.S.

Hardy inspired respect and affection among students and colleagues. Dr. Robert Hester, former chair of interior design, knew Hardy as a student, a faculty member, "and a very trusted friend whom I admired very much."

A consummate professional, Hardy found professional design opportunities for her students. Former students like **Virginia Hottel** '69BFA of T&L, Ltd. in Northern Virginia and **Mickey Nelson** '69BFA of Bowles, Nelson and Power in Roanoke went on to highly successful careers. After retiring from VCU, Hardy worked with architects, contractors and clients in design development and illustration.

### **"He lived what he believed."**

Dr. Martin Sidney Schwartz, professor emeritus of VCU's School of Social Work, died Oct. 30, 2005, at 80. He fought in WWII at the Battle of the Bulge. The rest of his life, he was a peaceful warrior for gay rights and social justice. He took part in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s march on Washington and marched against apartheid.

Schwartz worked for the Virginia Department of Mental Health in the mid-1970s. He taught in the School of Social Work from 1977-99. Dr. Schwartz was president of the Virginia Society for Clinical Social Work and helped establish licensing practices for clinical social workers.

Schwartz's VCU colleague Dr. Jaclyn Miller commented in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, "He lived what he believed, he taught what he believed and he engaged in what he believed in, all the time. He was adored by his students and respected by his colleagues." A scholarship in his name is given to a part-time VCU master's degree student interested in clinical practice.

# What's New?

Shafer Court Connections welcomes updates on marriages, family additions, job changes, relocations, promotions—whatever is newsworthy. Help us keep track of you by completing and returning this form. Recent newspaper clippings and photographs are also appreciated. Please mail to **VCU Alumni Activities, 924 West Franklin Street, P. O. Box 843044, Richmond, Virginia 23284-3044.**

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Spouse's Full Name/(If applies) Degree/Class

Children (Indicate if currently attending VCU)

Preferred Mailing Address

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NEWS

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VCU Alumni Association

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**African American  
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### or THINK BIG

— \$350 individual one  
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— \$450 couple one payment  
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— \$80yr, 5 payments/\$400  
total individual Life  
Membership

— \$100yr, 5 payments/\$500  
total couple Life  
Membership

— \$200 individual Senior Life  
Membership (*alumni over 55*)

— \$250 couple Senior Life  
Membership (*alumni over 55*)

\* I (We) wish also to be Life  
Members of African  
American Alumni Council  
(included in any Life  
Membership fees)

Please make checks  
payable to **VCUAA**.

on April 12, 2005, at 58. He received a Bronze Star for service in the Vietnam War and worked at Northwestern Mutual for 27 years. • **Michael Woods '76BS '78MBA/B** on May 21, 2005, at 54. He was an accountant with Xerox Corporation.

## 1980s

**Robert Allen '85BS/MC** on January 3, 2005, at 42. He was a set decorator for many years with CBS, designing sets for *The Price is Right*, soap operas, and tv movies. • **Herbert Bryant Jr. '83MS/H&S** on March 23, 2005. • **David Burke '88C/B** on September 27, 2005, at 66. • **Loreen Lloyd Carchman '86BS/E** on January 30, 2006. • **Donald Colbert '77BS '85MS/B** on November 12, 2005, at 55. • **Jean Therese Combs '80MED** on January 7, 2006. • **Elizabeth Floyd '77BS '83MS/H&S** on June 6, 2005. • **Dorothy Frostick '81BS/H&S** on January 16, 2005, at 47. • **Susan Watkins '81BS/B** on August 5, 2005, at 46. She worked for the VA Department of Taxation for 22 years. • **Joan Young '77BSW '80MSW** of cancer on January 25, 2006. She was 50. She had been a therapist at Westbrook Hospital, the Richmond Department of Mental Health Services, the Richmond VA Hospital, and in private practice. She was an avid traveler, hiker and biker and a voracious reader. Her energy and wry humor made many friends.

## 1990s

**Bruce Bell '90BS/B** on August 21, 2005, at 38. He was a project manager for Dominion Virginia Power. • **Luann Branch '91BS/E** on April 17, 2005, at 40. • **Patricia Browder '75 '91BS/B** on November 17, 2005. • **Stephen Carr '92MFA** on May 10, 2005, at 58. • **David Chapman '93BM** on June 15, 2005, at 40. He was a professional trumpet player. • **David Heath '90BS/B** on July 10, 2005, at 39. He owned Quizno's on Parham Road in Richmond. • **Keith Melvin '97BS/B** on November 29, 2005. He worked for the VCU Health System. • **Glen Pair '93MBA** on July 23, 2005. • **William Powell Jr. '99BS/B** on February 19, 2005. • **David Siberry '97BS/H&S** on July 23, 2005, at 48. He worked at the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls in Richmond for 10 years. • **Crystal Smith '95BS/B** on June 1, 2005, at 36. • **Patricia Wickham '98MED** on May 4, 2005, at 57. She was a public school teacher for 27 years. • **Velda Wilson '93BS/B** on April 1, 2005, at 44.

## 2000s

**Karen Baechle '01BGS** on April 15, 2005, at 39. • **(Lloyd) Gene Byrum Jr. '01MED** of a heart attack on January 27, 2006, his 48th birthday. He taught shop and coached football and girls' softball in Hanover County, VA Schools. He served on several planning and education commissions in Virginia. He was on the School Board and president of the Board of Supervisors of King William County, VA. "He wanted to give back to his community. That was his thing," said **Deborah Byrum '80BFA**, his wife of 24 years. • **Amy Catenaccio '04MSW** in 2005. • **Jeffrey Day '02BS/H&S** on September 6, 2005, at 26. • **Matt Fleck '02MS/MC** on July 22, 2005, at 29. He worked in the restaurant industry in Richmond, where his generous spirit made friends everywhere. Banners and tributes saluting him appeared in the Fan district and downtown. • **Diana Little '00MED** on February 3, 2006, at 35. She was the rehab clinical operations

**Important Note:** If this magazine is addressed to an alumnus who no longer lives at the address provided on the address label, please advise us so that we can correct our records. If you know the person's correct address, we would appreciate that information. Also, if a husband and wife are receiving more than one copy of the magazine, we would like to know so that we can avoid duplicate mailings. Please provide the names of both spouses and the wife's name at graduation.

Aliya Abdul-Khaliq	Woody Eney	Kenneth Kiernan	Dr. Christine Rice
James Adee	Laura English	Greg Klein	Paul Rice
Myra Adee	Julie Watkins Erpal	Kenneth W. Knight	Terry Ridley
Kim Agger	Anne Lafoon Fitchett	Lisa Daughtry Knott	Michelle Marie Riesser
Linda Allen	James Fitchett	Patricia Wiggins Lee	Thomas E. Robbins
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Marcia Atkins	Eleanor Rumae Foddrell	Jerry L. Lewis	Linda Shannon Roof
Peter Balas	Ann E. Ford	Kenneth E. T. Lorente Jr.	Howard Rose
Jason Belcher	Dr. M. Suzanne Fountain	Dr. Amy Luckeydoo	Dr. Wallace Saval
Don Beville	Arthur Frizzell	Edgar MacDonald	A. K. Shaban
Mary Blackwood	Michael Fuller	Kelly Machett	Dr. Katherine Tomlin Shaughnessy
Willis Blackwood	Grace Dorey Gallagher	John Magruder	Robert Sheffield
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Virginia Brenner	Seth Gayle	George Mancini	Grace F. Smith
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Patricia Seal Brock	Winston Gillenwater	Christopher Martin	Igor Taran
Dennis R. Brown	Dr. Peter Goldsmith	Pamela Hardey Martin	Brian Taylor
Tanya R. Brown	Gene Grafenstein	Kimberly Matthews	Suzanne Jordan Toler
John Brubaker III	Tracey Greene	John McAfee Jr.	Margaret Morell Tufty
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Daniel Cash	Richard Hopkins	Barbara Copenhauer Mostiler	Murray Whitehead
Karen Cash	Michael Housden	Dr. T. Wayne Mostiler	Harriett Whitney
Kenneth Clark	Dennis Hughes	Abdul Mukadam	Barbara Whittington
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Angela Payne Cuttic	Deborah Jones	Deborah Shea O'Toole	Mrs. Cynthia Ralsten Wilvert
Brian Cuttic	Melissa Menefee Jones	Dr. Dennis M. O'Toole	Dr. Tarynn Witten
Jack Damon	Wade Jones	David Paik	Lynn Wolfe
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Joy Catherine Powers Eades	Charles Kenney	Jean Ann Rackowski	
	Jo Lee Brown Kenney		

manager for Bon Secours Hospitals.

#### FRIENDS OF VCU

**Karen Abse** on January 21, 2006, in an accident while whitewater kayaking on the James River. As an active community volunteer, she helped organize several VCU alumni events. Her calm, warm enthusiasm will be missed. • **Crichton Armstrong** on September 8, 2005, at 60. She was on the faculty in the Department of Public Administration at VCU and the heroine of a series of mystery novels written by Charles Goodrum. • **Lloyd Boxley Sr.** on July 16, 2005. • **Lloyd Byrd Sr.** on June 22, 2005, at 79. • **William Carreras** of cancer, at home in Richmond on January 15, 2006. He was 61. With his wife, **Rejena**

**Carreras '70BFA'80MFA**, he helped lead VCU's Partners for Progress Campaign in the 1990s, and continued to support the arts and VCU. Owner of Carreras, Ltd., he was as brilliant in his trade as his own diamonds. DeBeers consulted him in the 1980s about marketing diamonds in North America, and named him one of 10 "Diamond People" in the world. His ready humor "made working with him a wacky and wonderful joy," said Jo Kennedy, director of Richmond's Visual Arts Center. • **Earle Coleman** on March 1, 2005, at 63. He was a professor of philosophy at VCU and taught for 33 years. He was also a magician, performing his magic at hundreds of events. • **Jean (Saunders) Drumheller** on August 21, 2005, at 66. • **Paul Duke** in July 2005. • **Nancy Gil-**

**lespie** on September 17, 2005, at 83. She was a president of the Tuckahoe Garden Club, and active in the Women's Club and the Society of Colonial Dames. • **Dr. DuPont Guerry III** on April 3, 2005, at 92. He was a retired professor of ophthalmology. • **Kip Kephart** on March 7, 2005. • **David Kewer** on August 1, 2005, at 50. He was CEO and chair of the board for the Eskimo Pie Corporation. • **Ella May** on September 22, 2005. She was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church, Tuckahoe Women's Club, and the Tuckahoe Artists' Association. • **Walton May** on February 26, 2005, at 87. He was an F.B.I. agent until his second career in real estate. • **Barton Morecroft** on September 29, 2005, at 79. He received many prestigious scholarships and fellowships, and

VCUQ also sponsors an annual design conference where world-renowned architects and designers from the region discuss their work and issues in contemporary design. More than 700 designers, educators and students met at the Tasmeen Doha 2005 conference last February with the theme, "To Bridge Tradition with Modernization."

Senior Brian Jones, a communications design major, was one of 14 VCU Richmond students who attended. The modernization—the Americanization—of Qatar amazed him. "Teenagers drove around in Ford Mustangs and we had a 24-hour Dairy Queen outside of our hotel." He adds thoughtfully, "It was a beautiful country with friendly people. I was surprised by how wrong Middle Eastern stereotypes are."

There is a balance of trade. Collaborating with VCU, VCUQ and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA), the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development brought the Middle East to Richmond last November in "The Expanded Frontier: An International Symposium on Islamic Art" at VMFA.

"No event focusing on Islamic art had been held in Central Virginia recently; and the roster of participants was unprecedented, consisting of the top experts in the field, from the Middle East, Europe and the U.S.," says Dr. James Farmer, chair of the Department of Art History and principal symposium organizer. As with the French Film Festival, art history students from the Richmond campus got valuable experience as organizational assistants and hosts to visiting scholars. Farmer points out that "the event showcased the Qatar Foundation's relationship with VCU to a broader, non-academic Richmond audience, as well as underscoring an already strong collaboration between the School of the Arts and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts."

The Qatar Foundation has recently funded the Khalifa Endowed Chair in Islamic Art at VCU. Part of the new faculty member's job will be organizing Islamic Art symposia in Doha in 2007 and again in Richmond in 2009.

Nayla Al-Mulla is a Qatari studying fashion and graphic design. In Doha, she has met students from Pakistan, Iran, Lebanon and the U.S.; and she hopes to study for a semester at VCU in Richmond. Al-Mulla praises the international teachers and students and the Qatari teachers for their revolutionary ideas on how to modernize and yet preserve traditions.

Her comments on the value of these exchanges speak for VCU faculty, students and alumni in many fields. "Art creates a powerful bond that can help people harmonize together," she says. "The past and future, East and West are starting to blend."

*Jane Mitchell is a freelance writer in Richmond.*



made important advances in nuclear powered submarines. • **Dr. James Oates III** on April 19, 2005. • **Virginia Koeppen Patton** on January 15, 2006. • **Dr. James Quagliano** on May 12, 2005, at 89. He was a lifelong chemist and faculty member at several universities, and taught freshman chemistry at VCU after retirement. His wife, Dr. Lidia Vallarino, is a VCU professor. He won numerous awards throughout his career, including two Fulbright Fellowships. He wrote three textbooks and over seventy articles. • **Edmund "Ned" Rennolds Jr.** on January 10, 2006, just after his 90th birthday. A stockbroker by profession, he was a passionate supporter of the arts. He was a founder of the Richmond Symphony and a trustee of the VA Museum of Fine Arts. He supported VCU's School of the Arts and Cabell Library, and established funding for the Mary Anne Rennolds Concert series at VCU in memory of his wife. • **William Rivas** on July 19, 2005, at 73. He was executive vice president of store operations for Circuit City Stores, Inc. for 31 years. • **Lawrence Roffman** on February 7, 2005, at 85. He was president of Republic Corporation of Virginia. He served on the boards of many community and religious organizations in Richmond. • **Kathryn "Kitty" Emsheimer Schwarzschild**, January 23, 2006, at 98. Born in New York City, she was a sculptor and painter, and collaborated with Norman Bel Geddes in creating the "Futurama" General Motors exhibit at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. She trained as a WASP pilot during WWII. She moved to Richmond after the war, where she was an active arts and community philanthropist, for VCU's School of Medicine among others. • **Walter Smith III** on March 30, 2005, at 46. • **Dr. Howard Sparks** on February 2, 2005, at 76. He had more than 20 years of distinguished service at VCU and at retirement was the vice provost for continuing studies and public service. He was awarded the VCU Presidential Medallion in 1992. • **Allison Reid Stokes** on January 31, 2006. • **Paul E. Van Vleet Sr.**, on January 26, in Richmond. He was a Spanish instructor at VCU 1985-2005. He touched countless lives as a Jesuit priest and missionary in Central America, where he ran a Catholic prep school 1957-71. He later left the Jesuits and married. "He wanted to help and educate the poorest and most disenfranchised" said his son, Peter Edward Van Vleet. • **Frank Watson** on November 15, 2005. He worked for Larus & Brother Company from 1932-72. He was a member of the Virginia World Trade Conference, the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

#### Key To Abbreviations

Alumni are identified by year degree/school

#### Schools

**A** Arts

**AHP** Allied Health Professions  
(CLS) Clinical Laboratory Sciences  
(RC) Rehabilitation Counseling

**B** Business

**CPP** Center for Public Policy

**D** Dentistry

**E** Education

**En** Engineering

**H&S** Humanities and Sciences

**M-BH** Medicine-Basic Health Sciences

**MC** Mass Communications

**N** Nursing

**P** Pharmacy

**SW** Social Work

#### Degrees

**AS** Associate's Degree

**C** Certificate

**BGS** Bachelor of General Studies

**BIS** Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

**BFA, MFA** Bachelor, Master of Fine Art

**BIS, MIS** Bachelor, Master of Interdisciplinary Studies

**BSW, MSW** Bachelor, Master of Social Work

**BM, MM, MME** Bachelor, Master of Music, Master of Music Education

**M, DPA** Master, Doctor of Public Administration

**MAE** Master of Art Education

**MBA** Master of Business Administration

**MD** Doctor of Medicine

**Med** Master of Education

**MIS** Master of Interdisciplinary Studies

**MPA, DPA** Master, Doctor of Public Administration

**MT** Five-year Teacher Education program includes a BA or BS/H&S and a Master of Teaching.

**MURP** Master of Urban and Regional Planning

**PhD** Doctor of Philosophy

\*Member of the VCU Alumni Association



On November 11, we celebrated VCU Founders by recognizing alumni of achievement and dedication from each of the Schools. Our stars shone and twinkled at a reception and dinner at the Science Museum of Virginia.

#### *Allied Health Professions*

##### **Rebecca Perdue '62BS Clinical Laboratory Sciences**

Group Manager for the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of General Services, Division of Consolidated Laboratories, managing quality assurance, safety and training. State Training Coordinator, National Laboratory Training Network. Served as Board member and President of the MCV Alumni Association of VCU.

#### *Arts*

##### **Judith Godwin '52BFA Painting & Printmaking**

##### **'89Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts**

Internationally known abstract expressionist painter. Her works are in major collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of Art in Osaka, Japan, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

#### *Basic Health Sciences*

##### **Dr. Colleen Jackson-Cook '85PhD Human Genetics**

Professor in Departments of Pathology, Human Genetics and Obstetrics and Gynecology in the School of Medicine. Director of the VCU Cytogenetics Laboratory since 1991 and an outstanding teacher. Research in chromosomal changes as people age; a reviewer and scientific advisor for the American Foundation for Aging Research and for many journals in her field.

#### *Business*

##### **Nancy Everett '78BS Accounting**

Chief Investment Officer with General Motors Corp. Formerly Chief Investment Officer with the Virginia Retirement System.

#### *Dentistry*

##### **Dr. Roger Wood '75DDS**

President and practitioner at Wood, Dunlevy and Lombardozzi. Chair of American Dental Association Council on Dental Education and Licensure.

Received a 2002 Congressional Award for Extraordinary Leadership and Compassion, after he and his wife organized flood relief for Goldsboro, NC in 1999. 2004 Community Service Award from the Virginia Dental Association.

#### *Education*

##### **Stephanie Holt '74BS Business Education**

Account Manager at Xerox Corporation, she handles accounts for the Governor's Office and several large Virginia agencies. Member and later co-chair of the Xerox Community Involvement Program since 1980. Member of the Board of Directors of the VCU Alumni Association and President of the School of Education Alumni Division.

#### *Engineering*

##### **Bradford Crosby BS '01 Chemical Engineering**

Technical Supervisor with Infineon Technologies, Lithography. President of the School of Engineering Alumni Division. As an undergraduate, co-founded ChemEngine, a student-run engineering consulting firm still operating.

#### *Humanities and Sciences*

##### **Dr. Leah Robinson '63BS '65MS '74PhD Psychology**

First Ph.D. graduate of VCU's Psychology program and a pathfinder. The first woman psychologist in full-time private practice in Eastern Virginia and the first with admission privileges to a psychiatric hospital there. A leader in securing full legal privileges for psychologists to form private practices with physicians.

#### *Mass Communications*

##### **Hugh Keogh '81MS Mass Comm**

Former Director of Economic Development for Virginia. President and CEO of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. Active in numerous civic organizations. Former President of the VCU Alumni Association.

#### *Medicine*

##### **Dr. Thomas Krummell '83Housestaff**

Internationally known in the field of pediatric surgery and innovative surgical technology. Emile Holman Professor and Chair of Stanford University Department of Surgery and Susan B. Ford Surgeon-in-Chief of Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. Founder and director of Stanford's Surgical Innovation Program. Two Smithsonian Information Technology Innovators Awards for his work in technology and surgical robotics; serves on almost a dozen editorial boards.

#### *Nursing*

##### **Margaret Gallagher Lewis '88BS**

President, Health Corporation of America, Central Atlantic Division. Founding board member of Lead Virginia and a member of the State Council on Higher Education in Virginia.

#### *Pharmacy*

##### **Dr. Bruce McWhinney PharmD '70BS**

Senior Vice President for Corporate Clinical Affairs for Cardinal Health, Inc. third largest pharmacy management company in the U.S. Developed and led Cardinal's Department of Corporate Quality and Clinical Affairs. Chair of the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties and the National Committee on Quality Health Care.

#### *Social Work*

##### **Dr. Ira Colby '75MSW**

Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Houston. Colby serves on editorial boards of major journals like Journal of Social Work Education and International Social Policy. Site Visitor and Team Chair for the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education.

#### *Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs*

##### **Anita Josey-Herring '82BA**

Associate Judge of the Superior Court, District of Columbia. Deputy Presiding Judge of the Family Court. She helped establish a Family Treatment Dependency Court to keep families together and healthy.

"The Association is growing, with new chapters in the DC-Metro and Hampton Roads, and the Young Alumni Council.

"I also want to continue working with our younger alumni to provide services and value for them."

**Matt Grammer '01BS/En,  
Officer-at-Large**

and encourage all alumni to support VCU as the University continues to impact education, not only in the Commonwealth, but throughout the nation."

**Jack Farmer '68BS  
Treasurer**

Row 3  
Elizabeth Moran,  
Tom Phillips,  
Gaurav Shrestha,  
Bill Ginther

Row 2  
Matt Grammer,  
Jack Farmer,  
Nina Sims

Row 1  
Marika Byrd,  
Vickie Snead,  
Jo Lynne DeMary,  
Patricia Green,  
Carol Negus

"With so much positive change, we have a great opportunity and obligation to support VCU

and our fellow alumni. Through growing our association membership, we can continue to expand programs to support faculty, students and recent graduates in a way that benefits our entire community."

**Dan Massey '92BS/B, Vice President**

Row 5  
Bill Davis,  
Steve Jones,  
Cecil Millner,  
Brad Crosby,  
Ken Thomas,  
Dan Massey

Row 4  
Bob Putney,  
Quent Corbett,  
Michelle Jones,  
Shirley McDaniel



## Your VCU Alumni Association Board of Directors

"It is important to have a 'seat at the table' in deciding how our diverse group of alumni will connect with VCU in years to come.

through more alumni at college fairs, phone-a-thons, campus tours and one-on-one meetings with prospective students and parents."

**MC, Secretary**

"In the coming years, we intend to establish a network of regional and affiliate alumni chapters.

I encourage all Association members who wish to build or join a chapter to contact the VCU alumni office at 804-828-2586, or through [vcu-alum@vcu.edu](mailto:vcu-alum@vcu.edu)."

**Jo Lynne DeMary '72MED, President**

"It is because VCU was there for me in the '60s that I am able to give [and serve] now.

I cannot imagine my adult life if I had not had the opportunity to attend VCU."

**Bill Ginther '69BS '74MS/B,  
Immediate Past President**

# VCU

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